COMPENDIUM of SIDE EVENTS

Side events at the eighth ordinary
meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity and third meeting of the
Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to
the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Curitiba, Brazil
13 - 31 March 2006

CBD

UNEP

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Introduction

We now know it is urgent to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target. This is ambitious, but success is vital. When Parties committed themselves in 2002, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and for the greater benefit of all life on Earth, they were taking the first step for the battle for life on Earth.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has ushered in a new enhanced phase of the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on life on earth. As reported in Global Biodiversity Outlook 2, the biodiversity of our planet is being lost at an unprecedented rate. Achieving the objectives of the Convention will not be possible without fully engaging all stakeholders and securing the commitment of all segments of society.

Side events organized by agencies and the Convention's partners and stakeholders, have, over the years become sources of valuable information and a unique mechanism for the exchange of experiences and best practices. This information deserves to be shared widely and must be sent out to an audience broader than the meeting participants themselves.

For this reason, the Compendium of CBD Side events – containing a summary of side-events held during the meetings of the Convention – was initiated earlier this year.

As the second of a series, this compendium contains summaries of the unprecedented number of side events held during COP 8 in Curitiba, Brazil from 20 to 31 March 2006, and the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (MOP 3) to the CBD, held from 13 to 17 March 2006. These side events provided participants with a rich variety of sessions on a host of critical issues facing the present and future environmental well-being of our planet.

I would like to pay tribute to the organizers of the more than 200 side events in Curitiba for their contribution to the second volume of the CBD Compendium of Side events, particularly to Mr. Mario Ramos (Program Manager for Biodiversity, GEF) who passed away on September 11, 2006 and whose kindness, dedication and contribution to biodiversity and the environment will never be forgotten. I invite all organizers to participate actively again at MOP-4 and COP 9 to be held in Germany in 2008. By doing so, they will greatly contribute to making the CBD Compendium of Side Events a permanent feature of the Convention's processes.

Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity

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COP 8

Side events at the eighth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Curitiba, Brazil
20 - 31 March 2006

Sustainable Biotechnology and Technology Transfer

American BioIndustry Alliance (ABIA)

The ABIA Side-Event focused on technology transfer and the need for positive incentives, with presentations by Costa Rica, Australia and the IUCN on their experience with the contracts-based ABS approach, and an ABIA presentation on similarities between the ABS debate and the tech transfer situation in the U.S. before the adoption of the Bayh-Dole Act.

Speakers included:

Mr. Jorge Alberto Cabrera Medaglia, Legal Adviser to the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), and Adviser to the Costa Rican Ministry of the Environment, on technology-transfer related benefits to Costa Rica through ABS Agreements over the past 15 years.

Mr. Geoff Burton, Director, Genetic Resources Management Policy, Government of Australia, on the varying forms of technology transfer included in ABS Agreements between biodiscovery firms and Governments as resource owners and managers to reflect changing market conditions.

Dr. Tomme R. Young, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, on increasing the effectiveness of the ABS Regime through the appropriate use of incentives, and, Mrs. Susan K. Finston, ABIA Executive Director, on the technology transfer lessons for ABS from the American experience in biotechnology.

Australia, Costa Rica and IUCN all highlighted industry's need for legal certainty and on their inability to track the source and origin of individual samples of GR used by industry.

Professor Jorge Cabrera Medaglia noted that Costa Rica has had the courage to take the risk and to gain in terms of institutional capacity building in Costa Rica. Costa Rica gained a number of highly important non-monetary benefits, including 100% of research budgets, technology transfer/infrastructure support, and support for conservation efforts. In addition, Costa Rica gained from training of staff-power, empowerment of human resources, and increased negotiating ability in each new contract, based on lessons learned. Costa Rica provides legal certainty to investors, which is considered a key consideration. Contributing factors for INBio's success include: a consistent and keen understanding of the market, legal tools, protection of intellectual property, confidentiality of business sensitive information, and strong government support for R&D across multiple stake-holders, including the University of Costa Rica. Jorge presented data on Charts which detailed the benefits to Costa Rica.

Mr. Geoff Burton, Government of Australia, noted that while major infrastructure training and employment investment such as AstraZenec's AU$100 million biodiscovery investment on Queensland are very significant the evolution of biodiscovery in Australia, from the dominance of companies like Astra-Zeneca, DuPont, and large national research institutions like the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(CSIRO), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), to include smaller biotech start-ups in more recent years has been significant. Increasingly, the pharmaceutical Industry has been relying on biotechnology companies to undertake natural product biodiscovery. Such biotechnology companies are nimble, focused and are imbued with a sense of urgency.

These smaller companies also have different capacities for technology transfer and are sensitive to transaction costs - both monetary and staff time. Such startups are usually unable to consider substantial upfront payments or significant training or infrastructure investments. In consequence the Government of Australia and the governments of its States and Territories focuses on regulatory simplicity to reduce costs, speed decision-making, make rules understandable and provide verifiable legal certainty. It maintains a dialogue with industry to foster mutual understanding and identify hurdles to investment in research and development. Without these pre-conditions present, bio-discovery by industry would be severely limited.

Larger companies subsequently investing in or partnering with biotechnology companies insist on due diligence, so legal certainty is all important. Government as the regulator of natural resource utilisation has an obligation to ensure that this legal certainty is provided to parties involved in natural product biodiscovery.

For smaller companies, there is less scope for technology transfer in the conventional sense. Recognizing this, it is instead important for resource providers to look for increased scientific and resource management knowledge as part of the access 'consideration'. A key principle for resource managers in benefit-sharing negotiations is the 'high value to resource provider - low cost to the resource user' equation.-, e.g. provision of scientific information about the condition of remote eco-systems are of high value (and high opportunity cost) to the manager of the ecosystem and this can be provided by the accessor at low cost. Adding this into the benefit-sharing equation reduces pressures on the accessor and builds mutual confidence. Keeping expectations by both parties realistic is key.

In summary, the nature of the deals changes because of the change in players. It is important to have realistic expectations as to the costs involved, and then the discussions on benefit-sharing can be more productive and more reliable.

Dr. Tomme Young, IUCN, presented slides on the importance of legal certainty in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regimes, and the impact of uncertainty on claims of misappropriation and other problems which currently inhibit effective ABS systems, and particularly its most important element, the development of a shared understanding of the nature and processes of the regime. Noting that it is possible to construct commercial systems to serve social or conservation purposes, Tomme pointed out that ABS systems are only worth developing where their goal is to support the other objectives of the CBD (conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity). Increasingly, law focuses on the social and societal impact of commercial systems, and this can underlie the working of ABS transactions.

She noted that the Regime negotiations can and should address ownership/sovereignty issues, designate legal tools, enable compliance, and identify and adjudicate claims of non-compliance. On the other hand, in view of both scientific and administrative problems, ABS systems cannot be expected to: (1) identify the sources

and/or origin of Genetic Resources where these are not disclosed by the user; (2) know which individuals or entities are utilizing genetic resources; (3) provide oversight for individual GR samples; (4) appraise the value of GR; and, (5) identify the intention of a collector of samples.

It is important for an ABS regime to provide practical answers to questions relating to how benefits will be shared through a system of incentives, motivations or compulsory elements.

Mrs. Susan K. Finston presented slides on the potential benefits of technology transfer for CBD members through ABS regimes, including the key role played by industry, and the parallels between the current ABS situation and the 1970's in the United States before the adoption of a unified technology transfer policy through the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 and related legislation. Drawing on the examples provided by Costa Rica, Australia and Thailand, Susan pointed to the concrete technology transfer benefits experienced by CBD members through a contractual approach. The critical incentives in each case remain the provision of legal certainty through protection of intellectual property, market oriented policies, and a commitment to science and research. These are also the three pillars of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980, according to independent research conducted by the NGO BayhDole25.

Based on lessons learned from the adoption of technology transfer legislation in the United States, Susan suggested that the ABS debate may also benefit from focus on these three pillars to enhance the potential of technology transfer through ABS contracts. Susan closed by reprising the concerns of industry with patent-centric ABS systems that will chill investment and will not provide meaningful benefits, unlike front-loaded benefits provided through contracts. IP protection is among the essential incentives needed to promote technology transfer through ABS agreements.

Launch of Angolan Biodiversity Publications

Angolan Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment

The side event organized by the Angolan Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment focused on three main objectives:

- To introduce and explain the process undertaken to develop the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP).
- To provide a better understanding of the biodiversity context in Angola, including its richness and threats
- To launch a number of publications related to biodiversity conservation in Angola

The Minister of Urban Affairs and Environment, Eng. Diekumpuna Sita José opened the meeting by providing some background on biodiversity issues in Angola and the responses by the Government to address the current threats to biodiversity. He also emphasized the need for cooperation with other important stakeholders and pointed out that Angola is currently finalizing its strategy as well as the First and Third National Reports for the Conference of the Parties.

This was followed by the presentation of the NBSAP Project Manager, Vladimir Russo, which highlighted the development process of the strategy including the research involved, public consultations, regional and national workshops as well as the publication of important data. The main objective of the strategy as well as its eight priority areas were presented. The objective is to incorporate in the development policies and programs measures to ensure the conservation and sustainable use for biological diversity and a fair and equitable sharing of the biological resources for the benefit of all Angolans.

A short presentation on the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) program which involves a number of activities related to the conservation of marine biodiversity in Angola, Namibia and South Africa was made. Maria de Lourdes Sardinha from the BCLEM Center of Activity in Angola introduced also a video about the area. Several DVDs were distributed amongst the participants.

Apart from the DVD, number of other publications were also launched and distributed to the participants. These included a book on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and a number of brochures on environmental legislation in place in Angola.

The participants asked about the role of the government in applying the CDB requirements and also enquired about the situation of the Protected Areas. Questions on cooperation amongst the Portuguese speaking countries, implementation of projects related to other Conventions as well as the capacity of Angola to address environmental issues were made.

The side event was attended by 30 participants including the State Secretary for the Environment of Portugal, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Guinea Bissau, as well as COP 8 delegates, Greenpeace and other participants.

An Overview of the Threatened Plant Species Diversity of Tropical Forests, with Emphasis on Araucanian Forest from South America

Brazilian Ministry of Environment

This side event focused the overview of the Araucanian Forest from South America, Biological contamination by alien species, and the experience of Argentina in the protection of the *Araucaria araucana* (Araucariaceae).

Speakers included:

Dra. Victoria Lichtschein – CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Coordinator of the Biodiversity Conservation and Administrative Authority- Secretary of Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy/ Ministry of the Social Development and Environment from Argentina.

Prof. Dr. Paulo Kageyama – Director of Biodiversity Conservation National Program/ Secretary of Biodiversity and Forest/ Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

Prof. Dr. João de Deus Medeiros – Santa Catarina Federal University – Brazil

Dra. Silvia R. Ziller - Director of Horus Institute and Coordinator of Alien species program for South America/ The Nature Conservancy - Brazil

Summary

1. Dra. Victoria Lichtschein reported the present conditions of Argentinian forests. The last populations of *Araucaria araucana*, are distributed along the narrow area in the frontiers with Chile and are inside the legally protected area. On the other hand, the populations outside the protected area are suffering a significant reduction because of the seed commerce. In relation to international commerce of *Araucaria araucana* species from Argentina is included in Appendix II of CITES and the populations from Chile are in appendix I of Cites. Recently Argentina government requested the inclusion of the *Araucaria araucana* species in Appendix I to pattern the species status. It will decrease the international commerce of these species.

Dra. Victoria has also observed that *Araucaria angustifolia* are distributed in a different area and is not included in the CITES appendix. The wood from these species is commercialized in Brazil as well as in Argentina. Dra. Victoria has concluded that the *Araucaria angustifolia* commerce restriction must be done by national legislation.

2. Dr. Paulo Kageyama has given attention to the genetic diversity of the *Araucaria angustifolia* natural populations. This fact can contribute for public policies for forest recuperation. Dr. Paulo also said that the best strategy is the adoption of forests corridors between the Conservation Units already established.

3. Prof. João de Deus has stand out regarding the difficulty to control the wood commerce by the government

mechanism. And he also observed that is the main condition to the *Araucaria angustifolia* species preservation.

4. Dr. Silvia Ziller has done an explanation about the problem of alien invasive species introduction in the *Araucaria angustifolia* natural fields. The main invasive species is *Pinus spp*. She also said that to solve this situation is necessary public awareness and more initiatives on *Pinus* species eradication.

Debate

Several issues was discussed and the main question was about the public policies that are necessary to stimulate the farmer to maintain the natural species to decrease the introduction of Pinus spp.

Sanitary Control at Fluvial Ports at Amazon Region: Present Situation and Challenges – Working Group and Workshop

Brazilian National Health Surveillance Agency- Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária

This working group was coordinated by the manager of Infra-structure, transportation means and control of vectors at ports, airports and border, Mr. Marcelo Felga. The debater was Mr. José Vicente (from the Ministry of Environment).

The issues presented were:

- "Present situation of health control at fluvial ports of Amazon region – Marcelo Felga (Anvisa);
- "Environment sanitation at the North region" – Sérgio Antônio Gonçalves (Ministry of the Cities)
- "A Interface between surveillance of the quality of water for human consume and the environmental control" – Adriana Cabral (CGVAM/SVS/MS)
- Divulging and clarifying the actions of health surveillance throw health agents at municipalities" – José Márcio Gonçalves – Departamento de Vigilância Sanitária de Belém (DEVISA-Belém/PA).

The Amazon region has different and peculiar characteristics that transform this region into a great challenge to the premises of equity and integrality of sanitary actions which aim at the improvement of people's quality of life. Its geographical extension, the great areas covered by forests and the complexity of its fluvial system culminate with difficulties to movement of people and goods among its municipalities, transforming the fluvial transportation in one of the most important means of dislocation, trade and integration of the region. Moreover, the richness of its biodiversity makes the region one of the most important natural patrimonies of the world. If it is not managed in a sustainable way, we may have bad effects into the human health, in a global and local level.

The Ministry of the Cities, as the organism which coordenates the preparation and the organization of the Brazilian politics of Environmental Sanitation (Política Nacional de Saneamento Ambiental) and manager of the resources in the ambit of this Ministry, has the essential role of articulating with the other involved organs, that Politics, as well as the Urbanization in order to promote the development and well-ordered increasing of cities. The perspective into the Amazon region, with reference to basic sanitation, shall consider the local differences with the objective of serving the actual needs of the region by the allocation of resources.

As explained above, the health control of ports at Amazon region is essential to promoting public health, since almost all entry and exit of these municipalities occur throughout the ports. In this context, Anvisa is responsible for executing actions of prevention and health control at ports, focusing transportation means; orientation to travelers; vaccination and emission of International Vaccine Certificate; places (environment and constructions); goods; companies installed and services offered at port areas; workers health and cooperatin ath environment surveillance. As macro challenges and future projects, we may have: improvement of cooperation between federal organisms and other organizations that may contribute to regional development; insertion of health actions

in ports into the politics of public health; articulation between institutions in order to optimize the use of human, technical an financial resources and development of health consciousness in order to foment the participation of people who live near the rivers into the process of construction of healthy environment.

Mesa Redonda e Oficina
"Água de Lastro: Situação Atual e Perspectivas Futuras"

Brazilian National Health Surveillance Agency- Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária

This working group was coordinated by the manager of Infra-structure, transportation means and control of vectors at ports, airports and border, Mr. Marcelo Felga. The debaters were Mr. Alexandre Leal – pesquisador do Instituto de Pesquisas Hidroviárias and Mr. Sebastião Carneiro – Assessor Parlamentar da Agência Nacional de Transportes Aquaviários, ANTAQ.

The issues presented were:

> "Comprovações Científicas e Desafios Quanto à Dispersão de Patógenos por Meio da Água de Lastro e Impactos Sobre a Saúde Pública no Brasil"
> Palestrante: Irma N.G.Rivera (Universidade de São Paulo - USP);
> "Exemplo de Impacto das Espécies Aquáticas Invasoras"
> Palestrante: Robson José Calixto (Ministério do Meio Ambiente - MMA);
> "Águas de lastro e sustentabilidade: identificação de áreas para deslastre por geoprocessamento na Baía de Todos os Santos-BA"
> Palestrante: Luiz Jorge Teles (Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária - Anvisa);

The maritime transport moves more than 80% of goods in the world and approximately 3 to 5 tones of ballast water each year. A similar volume may be also transferred inside countries or regions each year. Ballast water is essential to maintain security and efficacy of naval operations nowadays, assuring stability and balance to uncharged ships.

Ships' ballast water is a major vector of dispersion of species allover the world, nevertheless we have little information on the extension of the problem and the potential significance of the transference of pathogenic microorganisms throughout this vector. Pathogens, including those who affect human beings are very common at coastal waters and may also be transferred by ballast water.

The history of cholera dispersion for all over the world is a classic example of the impact caused by ballast water as a vector of pathogens that pose risks to human health. Anvisa has already made studies on this issue, as exploratory studies to identification and characterization of pathogenic species at ballast water; studies of risk management; identification by geoprocessing of areas of discharge of ballast water at Bahia de Todos os Santos – BA; microbiological diagnosis of risk areas at selected Brazilian ports (Main bacteria studied: Escherichia coli, Salmonella enteric, Vibrio cholera, Vibrio parahaemolyticus, Vibrio vulnificus.), among others.

From the environment point of view, invasive aquatic species are among the four major menaces to conserving aquatic biodiversity. On the contrary to other ways of pollution, introducing marine species is irreversible, on the most cases. The most known form of invasion through ballast water refers to Limnoperna fortunei, commonly known as gold mussel; a bivalve mussel originary from Asiatic rivers, especially Chinese ones, which is found

in general fixed into hard natural or artificial substrates. This organism that inhabits fresh or salt water was introduced into Bacia do Prata in Argentina, in 1991, and has gone throughout Parana and Paraguay rivers. In Brazil, the first registry of its presence was in 1998, in the area of the Jacui Delta, in front of Porto Alegre port, Rio Grande do Sul. This mussel causes the reduction of the diameter and obstruction of tubes that transports potable water, and clogging of filters from the system of turbines for generating energy. This problem demands frequent and specific maintenance operations, that have huge costs and forces changes in the practices of environmental control, in fishing made by traditional populations and menacing the system of refrigeration at small ships, besides of damaging engines.

The major challenges faced by Brazil to improve the sanitary and environmental control of management of ballast water are: establishing a politics to implement the Convention defining actions for short, medium and long term and the competencies of each organization/ part involved; incorporating risk analysis as a tool to the fiscal actions; and increasing articulation between organisms involved.

The Pan American Experience in Medicinal Plants

Brazilian National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA)

The PANDRH Working Group on Medicinal Plants met in Curitiba, Brazil, from March 29-31, 2006, sponsored by ANVISA. The meeting commenced with a round-table session on March 29. The institution ANVISA invited all the participants to the PANDRH Working Group on Medicinal Plants, to take part in the round-table session held at the Convention venue.

ANVISA planned the round-table based on the fact that the sustainable use of medicinal plants is an important issue for those countries and regions of the Americas rich in biodiversity. ANVISA's interest is that the traditional use of these medicinal plants be preserved in such a manner so as to favor greater access to therapeutic treatments with products that are safe, effective and of good quality.

The Regional country representatives to the round table included the drug regulatory authorities of Bolivia (Andean Community), Jamaica (Caribbean Community, CARICOM), and Mexico (North America). Panama should have represented the countries of Central America, but was unable to participate.

The Round Table concluded with a presentation from the WHO representative on International Regulation on the good use of Traditional Medicine. It was pointed out that various working groups are working in forums on initiatives in the area of harmonization in various regions of the world. The support provided by WHO in these processes was highlighted. Special mention was made of the recent agreement in establishing a global initiative on International Cooperation in Regulation of Herbal Medicines (IRCH), the main goal being to promote and facilitate the safe use of the herbal medicines worldwide, through regional initiatives, exchange of information and dialogue.

Regional perspectives were presented and it was clear that greater discussion on some areas highlighted by presenters was needed. These were:

1. The need for legislation for the registration or approval of medicinal plants:

Some countries are developing specific legislation for use of medicinal plants and finished products obtained from plant source. World Health Organization facilitates the development of legislation, through the preparation and dissemination of technical and scientific documents.

2. Definitions and terminologies:

The terminologies used in the classification of herbal medicines are not standard among the countries of the region. They are diverse and the range includes: finished herbal products, herbal remedies, natural drugs and herbal drugs. In addition, other terms utilized include herbal medicines, phytotherapeutics and phytomedicines. There is also no common definition for a phytotherapeutic drug. The use of different terminologies to describe equivalent preparations in different countries makes it necessary to work towards harmonizing the terms and definitions. This would facilitate the development of policies that are consistent between countries, hence make harmonization achievable.

3. Categories of herbal medicines:

The presentations showed that medicinal products or products made from medicinal plants in each country and regional blocs are classified differently, and there are also different criteria for safety and efficacy.

Bolivia:

Four categories were identified:

i. Artesan Craft Natural Drug;
ii. Homeopathic Natural Drug;
iii. National Natural Drug;
iv. Imported Natural Drug.

All of them require regulatory registration with different requirements for each category.

Jamaica:

Five categories were identified:

i. Herbs (material of raw plant origin);
ii. Herbal Material (in addition to herbs include juices rubber resins, essential oils, etc.);
iii. Herbal Remedy (botanical product with therapeutic properties and include both the traditional and new). These need to be registered;
iv. Finished Herbal Product (mixture of two or more herbs and can contain excipients in addition to active ingredients). May also require registration;
v. Nutraceuticals or Health Foods.

Mexico:

Two categories were distinguished:

i. Herbal Drug - Needs to be registered. The presentation of national or international literature which endorses that the therapeutic effectiveness and safety have been confirmed scientifically is necessary;
ii. Herbal Remedy - should be registered. These cannot claim to have therapeutic use, and can only be indicated to assist clinically based on the knowledge of the traditional use.

Dietary Supplements also exist in Mexico. These should be notified since although found in the food category and the purpose for use is to increase the total dietary intake, can contain medicinal plants and in its labeling use therapeutic claims.

4. Quality:

The need for developing monographs for native medicinal plants, which exist in the countries of the various geographical blocs, was highlighted. Monographs will allow the harmonization of technical requirements necessary to assure the identity, quality, safety, and efficacy of medicinal plants. Whilst medicinal plant monographs exist in some of the countries it was noted that their formats differ.

For further information, please contact:

gmefh@anvisa.gov.br, nur.shuqaira@anvisa.gov.br

Participative Management in Protected Areas: Evaluating Governmental Experiences

Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Resources-
Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA)

The public policies for conservation of nature have emphasized the creation of protected areas and the handling of natural resources. Notwithstanding the adopted strategy, in many cases, these strategies culminate in the application of models based on other realities in places whose communities keep specific characteristics and culture. In order to prevent any conflicts, to strengthen the political power of local communities and guarantee the citizenship's right in these communities, in the last decades, the governmental organizations for the environment and non-governmental organizations have supported the social participation of different actors in the management of protected areas. In this sense, it has been given priority to the enhancement of the protected areas as an element for the interaction between Estate and society, in which, the cultural diversity of such groups is evident and the improvement of community's welfare is added to conservation of nature.

Following this world effort, it has bean noticed some actions by governmental agencies in implementing these politics. Due to this reason, when the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 8) promotes among the side events, the round table "Participative management in protected areas: evaluating governmental experiences", this action makes possible: (a) to strength the incorporation of this subject to the governmental agendas; (b) to stimulate the participants to join in international forums about the subject; and (c) to acknowledge the participative management as an instrument to make stronger the communities and respect to the local cultures.

Therefore, in this round table there will be presentations prepared by professionals of governmental agencies from Cezar Rey, Director of Parks Unit of Colombia Environmental Ministry, Richard Bagine, Director of Kenya Wildlife Service, Geoff Burton of Department of the Environment and Heritage of Australian and Ashish Kothari, Co-chair of TILCEPA/UICN and Kalpavriksh of India, and the mediation of Valmir Gabriel Ortega, Ecosystems Director of Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Resources (Ibama). Each speaker will have twenty minutes (about seven pages) to give further details about his country experience in the subject and outline a general view of his continent. In the end, the moderator will make a brief of all presentations, emphasizing the experience of Brazilian Government, and will start the debate with the auditory, if there is still enough time. Besides that, it will be distributed the CD-ROM "Experiences in participative management of protected areas", in which there are articles prepared by experts from many countries.

Brazilian Biodiversity Programs: International Cooperation and Repatriation of Taxonomic Information

Brazilian Society of Zoology, Ministry of Science and Technology

Biodiversity information is critical to a wide range of scientific, educational, and governmental uses, and is essential to decision-making. Efforts to integrate data into viable resources for innovation in science, technology, and decision-making are being developed through local, regional, and global initiatives. The adoption of standards and protocols, and the development of tools for collection management and modeling are allowing new experiences in the integration, analysis and visualization of biodiversity information.

Natural history collections are the primary research archives documenting biological diversity on Earth. The specimens available in worldwide collections document the identity, habitat, history, and spatial distribution of the described species. The specimen vouchers and associated information provide a fundamental resource for biological systematics. Return on investments made during 250 years of biological inventories worldwide can be realized dramatically through digitization and integration of information about species and specimens. Less than 10% of the data on specimens are available in the electronic domain, and with the current mechanisms and level of funding, the completion of the Catalogue of Life is still far ahead of us.

There is a major need for the implementation of new mechanisms to promote the quantitative and qualitative increase of taxonomic knowledge. Strengthening of the scientific, technological and information capacities in natural history collections will contribute to the reduction of fragmentation of taxonomic information and will transform taxonomy into an integrated science. It is important to promote the undertaking of large scale collaborative taxonomic research projects, developing, improving and utilizing the information and communication technologies available. The implementation of large scale taxonomic projects involving megadiverse countries will lead to the generation of large biodiversity data sets that are relevant for the wider scientific community, government natural resource managers, policy makers, and the public in general. Without effective measures to help the megadiverse countries to develop the necessary skills and build strong institutions to deal with taxonomy of their own organisms, there is little hope for a rapid development of broad taxonomic knowledge and the establishment of effective conservation policies.

It is becoming very clear that the successful implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity is highly dependent on collaborative efforts, involving countries and international organizations, to integrate the relevant global and regional information initiatives into an organized, well-resourced, global approach to build and manage open access biodiversity information network.The side event was a follow-up of the project “Strategy for the Modernization of Biological Collections and the Development of an Integrated Biodiversity Information System” carried out by the Reference Center on Environmental Information (CRIA) for the Center for Strategic Management and Studies in Science, Technology and Innovation (CGEE) in collaboration with the Brazilian Societies of Zoology (SBZ), Botany (SBB), and Microbiology (SBM). Approximately 70 Brazilian experts were involved in the production of documents on the status of biological collections and strategies to address the taxonomic impediment in Brazil (http://www.cria.org.br/cgee/col/documentos).

The main objectives of the side event were to address the challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), and discuss the role of large collections in association to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and to the Species 2000 Catalogue of Life program, in data sharing and repatriation of biodiversity information. The event also addressed ways to increment the synergism with GBIF and the Catalogue of Life program.

All the side event presentations stressed the need of cooperation among the countries regarding the biodiversity information and data deposited in biological collections. The moderator was Vanderlei Perez Canhos from the Reference Center on Environmental Information (CRIA) and the rapporteur, Luciane Marinoni from the Brazilian Society of Zoology (SBZ). The presentations and the respective speakers were the following:

The Global Taxonomy Initiative: challenges and opportunities for megadiverse countries - Christoph L. Haeuser, State Museum of Natural History at Stuttgart. Photo courtesy of: Brazilian Society of Zoology, Ministry of Science and Technology

Completing the Catalogue of Life: collaboration with megadiverse countries - Frank Bisby, Species 2000 Executive Director. Photo:Brazilian Society of Zoology, Ministry of Science and Technology. Photo courtesy of: Brazilian Society of Zoology, Ministry of Science and Technology

Lessons learned in promoting data sharing with countries of origin: the GBIF experience - James Edwards, GBIF Executive Director.

Neotropical Flora: the experience of the New York Botanical Garden in data-sharing and repatriation of biodiversity information - Barbara M. Thiers, Director of the Herbarium, New York Botanical Garden.

For further information, please contact:
Dr. Luciane Marinoni
Entomological Collection Pe. Jesus S. Moure
Universidade Federal do Paraná
Departamento de Zoologia, Cx. P. 19020
81.531-980, Curitiba, Parana, Brazil
Phone: 55 41 3361 1650; E-mail: lmarinoni@ufpr.br
http://zoo.bio.ufpr.br/lmarinoni

Saving Species, Sites and Habitats and Empowering People in Small Tropical Islands

BirdLife International with the support of Darwin Initiative, DGIS (TMF)

Photo courtesy of: BirdLife International with the support of Darwin Initiative, DGIS (TMF)

1 Background

BirdLife International is a global alliance of national conservation NGOs that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide. There are thirteen national organizations that are part of the birdlife network in small island developing states.

2. Programme

The event was chaired by Ms Tiare Holm (Chief Executive of Palau Conservation Society- BirdLife in Palau) who gave brief opening remarks on the importance of islands as global priorities for bird and biodiversity conservation. This was followed by the case study from the Cook Islands which was presented by Ian Karika Wilmott (Manager of the Takitumu Conservation Area, Taporoporo'anga Ipukarea Society- BirdLife in the Cook Islands) and the example from The Seychelles presented by Mrs Rachel Bristol (Science Coordinator, Nature Seychelles- BirdLife in The Seychelles). The three presentations were followed by interactions between the panel and the audience.

3. Presentation 1: Opening Remarks from the Chair
(Tiare Holm)

The remarks by the chair stressed the importance of islands, particularly small tropical islands, in saving the world's biodiversity. There are more than 130,000 islands in the world with more than 500 million inhabitants. Together, islands cover one sixth of the world's surface and more than half of its marine biodiversity.

The biological diversity of islands is highly at risk. She illustrated this with bird related statistics such as;

- Half (104 out of 218) of recognized Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs) are confined entirely to islands.
- Although only about 17% of the world's bird species are restricted to islands, there are disproportionately high numbers of threatened species with almost equal numbers of Globally Threatened Birds (GTBs) on continents (620 species) as those on islands (622 species).

She then briefly introduced the speakers and their topics.

4. Presentation 2:Case Study of Community Conservation in the Takitumu Conservation Area, Cook Islands (Ian Karika Wilmott)

The Taporoporo'anga Ipukarea Society- TIS (BirdLife in the Cook Islands) operates through awareness raising, pilot projects and liaison with Government and other Non Government Organisations.

One of its major achievements is its assistance in the community efforts that led to the successful recovery of the Rarotonga Monarch, known locally as the Kakerori, in the Takitumu Conservation Area. The conservation area on the island of Rarotonga was established in 1996 with a management structure that puts the community in the driving seat and with the aim of continuing the programme to protect the Kakerori which began in 1988. The area is rich in endemic plants, endemic birds and a range of native biota that includes medicinal plants.

The presenter outlined the main components of the Kakerori Recovery Programme which encompasses research and monitoring, education and awareness raising as well as predator control activities. Research activities include studies on the ecology, morphology and behaviour of the species as well as monitoring of nests and fledglings.

The programme is being run by a thin crew of staff and volunteers with substantial inputs from the communities. Funding support has come from donors, notably the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme and Darwin Initiative, as well as from income generating activities through eco-tourism.

By 2001, the populations of the Kakerori on Rarotonga have recovered so successfully that insurance transfers were carried out to another island, Atiu.

5. Presentation 3: Nature Seychelles- contributing to save and protect Seychelles' unique environment, for people and wildlife (Rachel Bristol)

Nature Seychelles has been carrying out conservation action and education since 1998. Through its work involving research and monitoring, conservation action, capacity building and advocacy it is has gained national and international recognition as a leading NGO that is making significant contributions in protecting important sites, stopping extinctions and developing approaches on how to balance conservation and development.

Its restoration and management of Cousin Island Special Reserve, which it restored from a coconut plantation, has been widely acclaimed by several organisations including UNEP. It is actively providing support for island restoration in other parts of the country.

Nature Seychelles has recorded significant conservation impacts by playing a leading role in saving the Seychelles Magpie-robin from extinction and its ongoing efforts to save the Seychelles Warbler from the threat of extinction as well as its initiative to remove the Seychelles Fody from the Red List of Globally Threatened Species. In addition, it manages the most important nesting site for Hawksbill Turtles in the Western Indian

Ocean.

It investigates the impact of alien invasive species on native wildlife and works with partners to find solutions to control or eradicate them. In this regard, it has developed ways to eradicate Mynah Birds, which are introduced agricultural and conservation pests. Other alien invasive species addressed are the Tenrec, which was introduced from Madagascar, and the Spiraling Whitefly among others.

Nature Seychelles works with private island owners and the Seychelles Government to ensure that both conservation and development needs are met. It involves local people in its conservation action through its members, teachers and volunteers and provides opportunities for public discussions on conservation. It also increases awareness for conservation through publications and the mass media.

The presenter concluded by highlighting how the wide ranging programmes of Nature Seychelles could contribute to the implementation of the proposed CBD Programme of work on island biodiversity in the Seychelles.

6) Discussion

The audience' contribution centred around the eradication of alien invasive species particularly the ways to achieve effective eradication of alien mammals on small islands.

Several commentators also noted the excellent work that the two organisations were doing and encouraged them to link it to the national implementation of the CBD programme of work on island biodiversity.

For further information, please contact:
muhtari.aminu-kano@birdlife.org

National NGOs and CBD Implementation

BirdLife International with the support of Darwin Initiative, SwedBio and DGIS (TMF)

1 Background

BirdLife International is a global alliance of national conservation NGOs that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide. The CBD is committed to conservation of biodiversity in the context of sustainable development. Thus the mission of BirdLife mirrors the aim of the Convention.

Birds are excellent indicators for the status and trends of biodiversity – that is the reason why BirdLife data on threatened species and Important Bird Areas as well as Endemic Bird Areas are of major significance for the implementation of the Convention. BirdLife has been working with the CBD for many years, through the Conference of the Parties, the Scientific and technical advisory body and the Secretariat.

The implementation of the CBD happens mostly on the national level. Many BirdLife Partners have contributed to the development and the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the main mechanism for implementing the CBD nationally. They have also been active in other areas of CBD implementation at national and regional levels. This side event highlighted specific examples from Kenya and Paraguay.

2. Programme

The event was chaired by Dr Alberto Yanosky (Chief Executive of Guyra Paraguay- BirdLife in Paraguay) who gave a brief presentation on the BirdLife International Partnership. This was followed by the case study from Kenya which was ably presented by Paul Matiku (Chief Executive of NatureKenya- BirdLife in Kenya) and the example from Paraguay presented by Ms Karina Ugarte (Policy Officer- Guyra Paraguay). The three presentations were followed by interactions between the panel and the audience.

3. Presentation 1: Introduction to the BirdLife International Partnership by Alberto Yanosky

This presentation was given by Dr Alberto Yanosky. He informed the audience that unlike most international conservation NGOs, BirdLife is a network of independent national conservation NGOs that is active in 100 countries with a focus on bird and biodiversity conservation. The network has a highly decentralised and democratic structure with its highest decision-making body, the Global Council, consisting of democratically elected regional representatives. He is the current Chair of the BirdLife Americas Partnership and the Americas' representative on the BirdLife International Global Council (2004-2008) while Paul Matiku represents the BirdLife Council of African Partnership on the same body.

BirdLife's programmes and activities are derived from the national priorities and considerations of its Partners. In this way, the BirdLife International Partnership's structure is uniquely placed to support national CBD implementation.

4. Presentation 2: Support to CBD Implementation in Kenya by Paul Matiku

Photo courtesy of: BirdLife International

Kenya is rich in biological diversity. An enormous range of species inhabits the country's varied habitats, from its crowded and colourful coral reefs to icy alpine moorland. Around 25,000 species of animal and 7,000 plants have so far been recorded, along with at least 2,000 fungi and bacteria. Most of these organisms are little known. Many species have not even been named yet. Their value to Kenya's people, as sources of useful genes, as food or medicine, or as vital parts of ecological systems, has barely been studied.

Kenya's biodiversity is under serious threat. An expanding population is putting severe pressure on the environment. Impoverished people are forced to use resources unsustainably. Natural habitats continue to be cleared and converted. Land is degraded and water polluted; ecosystems are damaged and their functions impaired.

NatureKenya is responding to this challenge by identifying priorities, developing partnerships, advocating appropriate policies and working with local communities. With regards to biodiversity policy and legislation, Nature Kenya has had significant input to the Environment Management and Co-ordination Act, the Forests Bill, the National Environment Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and ongoing discussions on land law reform.

The organization's aim is to help produce revised laws and policies that will ensure environmental sustainability, and thus benefit all Kenyans. It provides objective technical advice, and try to ensure that modern conservation approaches are fully incorporated. In 2003 it published a report on "Forests and Development" and in 2004 a "Community Guide to Forest Conservation".

Nature Kenya has several years of productive and ongoing relationship with the CBD focal point in Kenya and has been incorporated on the Kenyan delegation to several COP and SBSTTA meetings. More recently, it has facilitated the establishment of a national network of community based organisations that is working to protect the most threatened biodiversity sites in Kenya as well as a new programme to develop a framework for site and species monitoring, sustained by local field workers and community groups. The results of these monitoring have proven to be valuable in the preparation of the CBD national report. In addition, Nature Kenya plans to contribute the results of its project on identifying key biodiversity areas to the county's gap analysis for protected areas under the implementation of the PoWPA.

5) Presentation 3: Support to CBD Implementation in Paraguay by Karina Ugarte

Some of Guyra Paraguay's recent achievements in conservation include;

- Systematization and digitization of biological inventory data for all of Paraguay's protected areas, including metadata covering the individual sources. All of the data and metadata are now available online, including nearly 2,000 images of Paraguayan biodiversity.
- Second national Important Bird Area (IBA) workshop, which completed the identification, delimitation and mapping of 57 IBAs, and subsequent development of a remote-sensing based IBA monitoring protocol.
- Ongoing action to consolidate the protection of San Rafael (Paraguay's first IBA). This has included a successful fundraising campaign, with 3,546 ha purchased to date and a further 3,000 ha soon to be acquired, and the hiring of a reserve manager. Through the San Rafael Conservation Alliance, Guyra has supported a suite of other actions, including a private reserve warden system and the strengthening of local enforcement of environmental legislation
- An active environmental education program, which has included the consolidation of an IBA Site Support Group in the Paraguayan Pantanal, and a series of outreach activities in communities neighbouring Atlantic Forest IBAs.

These achievements have placed the organization in a good position to support the Ministry of Environment in CBD implementation. Guyra Paraguay has recently established contact with the national CBD focal point which has led to the incorporation of several Guyra staff on the national delegation to CBD meetings, including COP-8, as well as the development and implementation of specific programmes to support national CBD implementation.

In particular, based on COP Decision VII/28 on protected areas of the CBD, Guyra Paraguay has supported the preparation of the gap analysis for ecosystems of the country. This document which was developed with the active participation of the Paraguayan Secretary of the Environment, and also ratified during a separate presentation at COP8, is already available for policy makers and in the forthcoming months the document is going to be revised by an ad-hoc group of scientist in order to up date the information for the ecosystems. This initiative not only allowed Paraguay to agree on ecosystems at the national level but also to be one of the first countries in the region to contribute to the CBD's obligations preparing the scene for the next steps in Gap Analysis at other levels, such as the species-focussed analysis.

Furthermore, Guyra Paraguay has carried out an analysis of needs for the Clearing House Mechanism implementation in Paraguay. In this context, a participatory workshop was developed and a document was produced for the Secretary of the Environment. An innovative proposal of a public-private initiative to develop the CHM has been proposed.

6) Discussion

Discussions centred around BirdLife's approach to working with local communities through the IBA Site Support Group model which has been highlighted by all the presenters.

For further information, please contact: muhtari.aminu-kano@birdlife.org

Globally Important Bird Areas Identified in Brazil: Atlantic Forest IBA Book Launch

BirdLife/SAVE Brasil

The Society for the Conservation of Birds in Brazil (Sociedade para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil - SAVE Brasil), and the BirdLife International Brazil Programme, launched last month the book Áreas Importantes para a Conservação das Aves no Brasil (Important Bird Areas in Brazil), during the Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil.

Approximately 80 people attended the event, among them representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, the Federal Environmental Agency (IBAMA), members from national and international NGOs, researchers, and scientists. The event was opened by Pedro Develey, one of the book's co-author, and followed by speeches made by Alberto Yanosky, Council Member of BirdLife International, by the president of Rio Tinto in Brazil, Mr. Andy Connor, by Mr. Kuo-Yun Fang, from the Society for Wildlife and Nature – SWAN International, and by Jaqueline Goerck, director of SAVE Brasil and co-author of the book.

The book's authors,
Photo courtesy of: BirdLife/SAVE Brasil

The book covers 163 Important Bird Areas, encompassing 15 states, including nine ecoregions of four Brazilian biomes (Atlantic Forest, Cerrado, Caatinga and Southern Grasslands). 51% of the 163 IBAs identified are partially or totally inserted on protected areas of integral protection, 3% on sustainable use protected areas, and 19% on private reserves. 27% of them are not protected by any official category of protection.

This study took five years to be concluded and counted on the volunteer participation of 30 biologists and ornithologists. It is part of the global strategy adopted by BirdLife International, which has already identified 7.500 IBAs in 170 countries.

Audience overview
Photo courtesy of: BirdLife/SAVE Brasil

This study aims to show to the general audience that these areas are important and need to be conserved, through the implementation of on-the-ground conservation activities. It is a valuable tool to be used by governmental bodies, scientific community and civil society, to justify investments, projects and conservation campaigns.

Brasil has nearly 1.800 bird species, which represent ca. 20% of the 9.000 species that exist in the world. It is the third country in bird diversity, and the first in number of threatened birds. From the 1.212 threatened birds in the world, 118 are in Brazil, including the Alagoas Curassow Mitu mitu and the Spix's Macaw Cyanopsitta spixii, already extinct in the wild. The Important Bird Areas in Brazil book identified areas for 83% of the Brazilian threatened avifauna. The book was organised by Glayson A. Bencke, Giovanni N. Mauricio, Pedro F. Develey and Jaqueline M. Goerck.

Chicago Wilderness: A Collaborative Approach to Urban Conservaton

Chicago Wilderness

Introduction:

Two similar experiences—one in Chicago, U.S., and one in Curitiba, Brazil—engage city-dwellers in the conservation and restoration of natural remnants of high biological value that survive in large urban centers. This side-event was a round-table presentation of the work of Chicago Wilderness (an alliance of 193 diverse organizations focused on studying and restoring the natural resources of the greater Chicago region) and of the Condomínio da Biodiversidade (a coalition working in Curitiba and neighboring areas). Both initiatives work with private citizens; corporations; local, state, and federal agencies; academic institutions, and conservation organizations. Both in Chicago Wilderness and in the Condomínio da Biodiversidade the regions are immense, the human populations enormous, and the pressures on the environment daunting. And both efforts focus on a major opportunity: to restore to life a complex of natural communities that are among the world's finest (tall-grass prairie/oak savanna complex and Atlantic forest), but are on the verge of disappearing.

Chicago Wilderness

Stretching from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois and into northwestern Indiana, Chicago Wilderness is a regional nature reserve containing good examples of some of the rarest natural communities in the world. These parcels of land are embedded in one of North America's most populated metropolitan regions, one known to the world for classical music and the blues, for struggling sports teams, diverse ethnic food, colorful politics and revolutionary architecture. Far less known is the mosaic of natural areas that includes more than 260,000 acres of protected lands and waters, as well as many that are still unprotected and vulnerable to development. Thousands of species of native plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth, live among the millions of people who also call the region home.

The Chicago Wilderness consortium is an unprecedented alliance of 193 public and private organizations working together to study, restore, protect, promote and manage the precious natural ecosystems of the Chicago region in order to enrich local residents' quality of life, and to contribute to the preservation of global biodiversity.

The future looks bright in the Chicago Wilderness vision.

- Residents and decision makers understand the significance of the region's biodiversity and support its long-term protection and stewardship
- Natural communities of the Chicago region are protected and restored to long-term viability
- Residents exist in a sustainable relationship with nature and enjoy an enhanced quality of life
- Chicago region contributes to the preservation of global biodiversity

Arguably the single most important success factor in this effort is collaboration across disciplines and among diverse organizations. Partnerships infuse this work with enormous strength. For example, collaboration among the region's scientists, land managers, educators and policy-makers culminated in 1999 with the publication of the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The Plan's recommendations guide the conservation efforts of the consortium. Together, Chicago Wilderness members have preserved and restored thousands of acres of natural areas, developed tools for management of those areas, facilitated the adoption of important conservation policies and practices by local communities, and educated thousands of residents about their rich and diverse natural heritage.

Great progress has been made in ten short years. From 34 founding organizations in 1995 Chicago Wilderness has grown to a current membership of nearly 200. This includes many local municipalities as well as smaller grass roots groups. In 2001, important links with the region's business community were forged through the formation of the CW Corporate Council, which supports the effort with both funding and influence. Biodiversity has been newly prominent at the table in a number of recent regional planning efforts such as the Chicago Area Transportation plan which never before asked the question of impact on biodiversity. The Metropolis 2020 Plan which updated the far sighted Burnham Plan recently also added a biodiversity component, called Green Infrastructure, to their scenario for the region. In April 2006 the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Report Card was released to the public. This comprehensive document reveals both the progress of the consortium and the immensity of the task that remains in order to accomplish the ambitious mission.

Chicago Wilderness has also been recognized outside of the region as an outstanding model for urban conservation. Places as far-flung as Brazil, Oregon, Pittsburg, Houston, Hawaii, and New York. The Chicago model has been the subject of lively discussion in such international forums as the World Parks Congress in Durban South Africa in 2002 the Third IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok Thailand in 2003, in Bangkok, Thailand, and the 2005 UNESCO urban biodiversity conference in Paris in January 2005 where it was described by Sir Peter Crane, Director of Kew Gardens as "a classic case study in urban conservation."

Organization and structure

The original organizers of this effort acknowledged the challenge of succeeding in a conservation mission when the land holdings, while significant in biodiversity value, are distributed in a patchwork of multiple ownerships and legal authorities and in close proximity to millions of people. Their intention was to bring together to one table all the players in the region needed to make good decisions and to provide the necessary resources to succeed.

Hence Chicago Wilderness member organizations include all major public land owners and land managers such as county Forest Preserve Districts, state Departments of Natural Resources, federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service and the National Park Service that have significant preserves in the region, park districts with natural land holdings, and other public land owners like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Research and education institutions such as the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Chicago Botanic Garden that have tremendous scientific resources and millions of member supporters were also deemed necessary to the mix. Other categories were conservation and advocacy ngo's, large and small alike.

The Nature Conservancy, OpenLands Project, Sierra Club and Friends of the Chicago River; regional planning agencies; and Federal, state and local regulators like the US EPA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Chicago Department of Environment.

A Memorandum of Understanding was created as the unifying document for the consortium. There is no required payment by any member organization, but there is an explicitly stated expectation that joining Chicago Wilderness means the member organization will participate in activities of CW by attending appropriate meetings and events, contributing staff time to major projects, and hosting meetings. Members participate in widely differing levels of activity based on their ability and interest.

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Laurel M. Ross, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605
lross@fieldmuseum.org 312 665 7432

Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy in Chile and a Case Study on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Commission for the Environment of Chile

The side event, organized by the National Commission for the Environment of Chile, presented the main advances of the implementation of the Chilean Biodiversity Strategy. It highlighted the emphasis of this strategy, described the national action plan main achievements (such as the approval of three policies related to protected areas, endangered species and wetlands respectively), and provided a case study of three pilot marine and coastal protected areas, which are currently under development with the support of the GEF. Following the power point presentation, a 20 minute video on the three marine and coastal protected areas was shown. The discussion centered on specific details of the strategy, and on the requirements to establish marine and coastal protected areas in Chile. The side event was attended by more than 50 representatives.

Formal-Informal Sector Partnerships as Models of Access and Benefit-Sharing and Institutionalizing Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation

Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation (CBDC) Network

This side event links with agenda item related to Article (8j). CBDC asks if it is possible to develop a farmer to farmer access and benefit sharing scheme at a regional and international level? What are the considerations for a multi-lateral access? What are the alternatives and options for farmers now that the seed system is being privatized?

The side event was moderated by Dr. Joe Mushonga who introduced the panelists. The session started with the introduction of the side event by Mr. Paul Borja of SEARICE. This opening remark was produced by CBDC as a statement distributed and released electronically. A video on the women curators in Chile who worked with Chefs in the city to promote the local indigenous vegetables and cuisine was presented next by Mr. Max Thomet of CET-Sur in Chile. Another presentation on the access and benefit-sharing experience in Africa was presented by Mr. Fred Zinaga of CTDT in Zimbabwe.

The side event was well attended by around 15 people (excluding CBDC Network). Some of the attendees were from the Norwegian delegation and the EU delegation.

Introduction and Rationale (Paul Pedro I. Borja - SEARICE, Philippines)

The Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Network (CBDC) started as a global program in 1994 with the aim of supporting and strengthening farmer-led and community-based efforts in the conservation, development and utilization of agro-biodiversity. As a program, the CBDC worked on a number of premises, among them, that farmers maintain agro-biodiversity and therefore contribute significantly to its overall conservation and development, that under a range of situations farmers are capable of meeting local seed requirements both in terms of quantity and quality, and that farmers' seed systems could significantly benefit from and be enhanced through support and assistance from the formal/institutional sector.

As a program, the CBDC was implemented in 11 countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America, which are themselves regions of biodiversity. The program was established and coordinated through a variety of organizational/ institutional partners in the different countries such as NGOs, academic institutions, public research and extension institutions and local civil society networks. A number of North-based organizations and institutions also became part of the CBDC global program supporting and enhancing both technical and policy work of the Southern partners, hence establishing a viable North-South partnership. Presently, the CBDC operates as a global network that continues to share experiences, knowledge and resources and cooperates on various technical and policy initiatives to promote farmers' rights and farmer-led conservation, development and use of agro-biodiversity.

Within the context of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CBDC is a model pro-

gram and experience that contributes to the attainment of the Convention's main objectives namely conserving biological diversity, using natural resources sustainably, and fairly and equitably sharing benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

The CBDC has had success in developing new and effective approaches in public policy reforms and agricultural program development, school curriculum development, public research direction setting, and marketing of local biodiversity products, among others. CBDC has also placed the agenda of farmers' rights in the forefront of policy discussions and advocacy vis-à-vis emerging challenges and threats as regards issues on intellectual property rights and new seed technologies.

Likewise, the CBDC can be considered a model in access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The CBDC has provided participating farmers and farming communities with "access" to resources (technical, political and biological) on national, regional and global scales that otherwise would be unavailable to them. Further, as the program and the network has been working with farmers, farming communities, organizations and institutions across countries and regions, it has become possible for benefits in agro-biodiversity CDU to be shared by and among farmers. The CBDC has facilitated "benefit sharing" through distribution of program resources, farmers' technical exchanges and cross-visits, capacity and knowledge sharing among partners, farmers' seed exchanges and diversity fairs, and cooperation on various technical and policy advocacy initiatives. These forms of "benefit sharing" have helped develop farmers' capacities both technically and politically, enhanced their agro-ecological resources and farming seed systems with new genetic and biological variation and technologies coming from other farming sources, and likewise promoted inter-cultural and political solidarity among farmers.

Thus, while recognizing the need to have an international legally-binding ABS regime, as currently being negotiated in the CBD, that could provide some mantle of protection to sources of genetic resources, it is equally important to promote and support other modes of "access and benefit sharing" that are truly equitable and fair from a socio-economic and political perspective, and which do not diminish but rather strengthen the rights of farmers and farming communities over their biological and genetic resources. Such alternative modes can help expand our concept of benefit-sharing, as we know it, beyond the dominant commercialization framework, and provide farmers, farming communities and sources of genetic resources, and States as well, more options and strategies in the conservation, development and utilization of their resources. We think that the CBDC experience, and other similar experiences and models, is worthwhile to look at in this regard.

Video Presentation: Women Curators of Chile (Max Thomet - CET-Sur, Chile)
A video presentation opened the side event. The video revolves around the work of women seed curators of Chile, how they conserve the diverse vegetables they have and how they prepare the food for their family. CBDC Chile then organized an event where known Chefs around Chile had an encounter with the women curators, exchanging recipes and cooking the food. The Chef tasted the food preparations and related their experiences. The activity was intended to show that Chef can be educated and appreciated the process of introducing them to traditional way of cooking. They were encouraged to proceed to develop recipes and in the process support the conservation of traditional varieties. The video shows a form of 'access and benefit sharing' mechanism moving beyond financial benefit sharing but cultural and social benefit sharing too.

GURTS: Potential Implications and Impacts on Farmers' Rights

SEARICE- Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation (CBDC) Network

Mr. Sylvester Rogers of CBDC Sierra Leone chaired the session, which is composed of:

(1) ETC: Overview of Issues and Concerns
(2) CBDC Africa: GURTS and farmer seed systems in Africa
(3) CBDC Latin America: GMOs and GURTS
(4) CBDC Asia: GURTS and the changing rice seed system in Asia, a case in point

The side event which was scheduled in the evening was attended mostly by CBDC partners and allies. There were only five new faces in the crowd who were not affiliated with the CBDC Network. The low attendance to this side event is not because of the topic per se or the absence of advertisement. The other side events, happening at the same time were less attended. The schedule of the side event on a Friday evening, at the end of a very tight and tense week could have contributed to the low attendance. Also, for GURTS which was a controversial topic the whole week, a partial victory was achieved when the Working Group practically erased all Granada Meeting text. In a way, having a discussion on GURTS with such a victory was anti-climactic. Nevertheless, CBDC Network proceeded with the side event as a celebration and to deliver the position of CBDC on GURTS.

Overview of Issues and Concerns on GURTS (Mr. Pat Mooney - ETC, Canada)
The challenge is in recognizing that the struggle and fight to stop GURTs is not even half way there. In sciences, there is a problem in physics where there is an irresistible force – companies will always force farmers to buy the seeds. On the other side, we have a de facto moratorium which you can sneeze and blow away. It has to be made stronger. Unless the meetings reach COP 27, a final decision needs to be made somewhere.

During the ministerial section of the COP 8 – the real objective is to talk to Ministers, pass laws in your countries when you go home, and terminate terminator in the counties.

It will not affect us immediately – do a scenario. What will happen to public research? What will happen to the subsidy? What happens when corporations come in? What would happen to the prices and other important cost? Play it out in detail what will it really mean? That kind of information, will give us ammunition to ban the technology. Beyond providing that data, we need to go to the national governments and say 'look at Curitiba and ban the terminator in the country'. If they see enough laws banning terminator in countries then companies will say it's not economically feasible to take. We can go on UN to make it totally ban terminator.

Lethal impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTS) on seed system of the South: Africa in particular (Fred Zinaga - CTDT Zimbabwe)

GURTS and the Changing Rice Seed System in Asia (Samruay Phadphon - CBDC-Nan,Thailand)
The culture of Asia revolves around rice. We believe that rice is the mother of our community. Just share of the

field experiences in North Thailand, where we are working.

It is home to diverse people. Sticky rice is the stable crop. Rice varieties have been developed by farmers. Without these materials, we cannot re-introduce and regenerate other new products.

We apply some kind of traditional knowledge and science to build up the curriculum in farmer field school in the community. If we lose traditional variety, practise and knowledge what will happen? The risk of GURTS will cut the relation of process of learning because the people in the community will lose the trust (both of knowledge and the material) in the use of the stock seeds.

Example in the field, we set up some kind of learning spaces together with the farmer and the youth. We cannot do this anymore when we have GURTS. Like the breeding process, if we do not have the saving of seeds for our own use, this kind of process will be lost.

Sharing of the product of seeds and other benefit from the field is important for the farmer. The survival of the community for home consumption of seed itself depends on the community itself. What happens if the company is bought? The relation between the farmer and the community will be discontinued.

Our belief is that we are the sons of rice. If we lose the continuity of re-generating rice, as in GURTS, we lose the generation.

Video on seed savers (Luis Eugenio Cifuentes - Colombia)

To end the presentation on GURTS, Luis Eugenio showed a video of seed savers and the activities against GMOs. The main idea is that seeds are not just a pack of seeds but seeds include music, dance, culture and life. With the loss of seeds, through GURTS, we will lose this cultural diversity as well. Therefore the threats of GURTS must be confronted.

Water Sources Protection Program

Companhia de Saneamento do Paraná

In accordance with the environmental policy of the Government of Paraná, Sanepar works to maintain sound environmental conditions in water sources within the state. The utility accounts for having assessed water quality of 229 water sources used for public drinking water distribution, in order to execute a recovery and conservation plan.

The purpose of the Program is to guarantee drinking water for the people of Paraná. For that, the utility depends on water resources preservation. This work involves many steps of environmental actions, all of them included in the strategic planning of the company. It also recognizes the importance of having the support of society in the search for sustainable conditions of the environment.

The Water Sources Protection is the main program in the strategic planning of Sanepar for the environment. It is through this Program that the utility executes the recuperation of riverbanks to restrain erosion processes in areas of former water intakes. This porgram aims at diminishing environmental degradation and minimizing risk situations of households located by the water sources.

The Program also comprizes alternative actions for environmental risks regarding water sources within the state of Paraná. This plan also has the objective of immediately identifying risk situations caused by road accidents, rail accidents, and impacts caused by accidents envolving industries and oil main lines instaled next to the riverbanks in each water basin. The effectiveness of the program lies on being able to assist, the fastets way, different risk situations caused by accidents, to ptrtect water intakes of public drinking water systems.

Biological Diversity in Dry and Sub-Humid Lands for Human Well-Being

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Emile Frison, Director General of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, gave an overview of the Alliance of Future Harvest Centres, 15 global Centres supported by the CGIAR. He explained that the role of the 8,000 scientists and staff is to produce international public goods: knowledge, technology, policy advice. The Centres around the world have different mandates, some dedicated to crops, others devoted to specific environments, yet others deal with cross-cutting issues. He noted that the work of the Alliance is geared to the CGIAR mission, scientific research to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries. He further explained that considerable work is focused on dry and sub-humid lands, precisely because they are marginal and fragile, and its inhabitants need assistance to improve livelihoods. If people abandon those areas, degradation is often intensified.

Photo 1: Mohamed Bakarr, Director, Strategic Initiatives, World Agroforestry Centre
Photo courtesy of: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

The Centres maintain varieties of crop samples important to dry areas such as sorghum, wheat, chickpeas, millet, barley and groundnut. Speaking about conservation and use, he noted that accessions are available in the public domain to anyone who wishes to use or breed to improve production in dry areas. Between 1991 and 2001, about 46,000 samples a year were distributed to users. So far about 66 cultivars have been released in 44 countries by one Centre. Characterization of data is very important to end users, so they can find the traits they need. Many useful traits and molecular markers have been identified and the data are available through the web site of the System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) (http://www.singer.cgiar.org). Highlighting the importance of diversity for breeding, he gave examples of work on breeding for drought resistance. The work on barley has included farmer participation to get faster assessment and diffusion. In wheat, research programs have included broadening the base to bring in drought resistance, and also resynthesis of wheat genome from wild ancestors was undertaken to create new pool of diversity with potential for drought resistance. He explained some of the activities in West Africa, which focus on adaptive traits in animal breeding like resistance to disease, and in Asia on the "Decision Support Tool" which acknowledges the large diversity of livestock breeds/populations on the Asian Continent and allows prioritization of breed conservation and utilization while maximizing human livelihood benefits.

Frison elaborated on an extension of the fundamental approach of conservation to use traits in improvement, by using diversity to help farmers manage pests and diseases. In Morocco, working closely with farmers, more than 80 populations of local varieties of barley, faba bean, alfalfa and durum wheat were evaluated for disease resistance. Now the work with farmers continues to understand how best to use diversity to improve food security. He concluded by noting that there are different approaches to using diversity to improve livelihoods in arid and sub-humid areas. All, however, depend on working closely with poor farmers who live in those areas

and strive to minimize risks. More effective food security reduces pressure on environment, and protection of diversity, because it is useful, results in protection of the environment.

Jan Valkoun, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), explained that drylands are vulnerable to land degradation and desertification processes, and that although they are often considered low in biodiversity, they contribute significantly to the global production of staple crops such as wheat, barley and sorghum. He elaborated on the dryland agrobiodiversity project in Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority and Syria which focuses on conservation of landraces and wild relatives of barley, wheat, lentil, alliums, feed legumes and fruit trees. He said ICARDA was conserving 30,000 wild species in genebanks to be used in breeding research and restoration of ecosystems.

Mohamed Bakarr, World Agroforestry Centre, noted that agroforestry creates livelihood options for poor farmers while playing a key role in the conservation of biodiversity. He also pointed out that agroforestry places trees in working landscapes to enhance food security, income generation and sustainability. He highlighted the role of agroforestry in biodiversity conservation, namely, to reduce pressure on natural resources and maintain genetic diversity of both in situ and ex situ species. Using shade coffee as an example in Eastern Africa and Asia, he explained how it had diversified options for livelihoods and created habitats for other species, adding that farmers should be recognized and rewarded for such innovations in land use practices.

Sustainable production is central to maintaining biodiversity in arid and semi-arid areas. The Future Harvest Centres have undertaken major programmes to improve agricultural sustainability and benefit farmers and communities in these vulnerable ecosystems. The examples from Asia, Africa and the Middle East showed how sustainable production practices can improve the maintenance and use of agricultural biodiversity and benefit livelihoods in dry and sub-humid lands.

For further information, please contact:
Toby Hodgkin
Principal Scientist
Global Partnerships Programme
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00157 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: (39) 066118212
Fax: (39) 0661979661
Email: t.hodgkin@cgiar.org

Photo 2: Jan Valkoun, Head
Genetic Resources Unit
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
Photo courtesy of: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Wildlife Watching and Tourism [1]

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in collaboration with TUI

Michael Iwand, TUI, challenged the assumption that a reduction in tourism numbers benefits nature. He said, the issue was the manner in which tourist activities are conducted, noting that such activities can provide a sound basis for conservation. He elaborated that business now has a new global multi-stakeholder model of governance and tourism which offers viable options for countries on the fringes of the global economy. He explained how TUI, a leading tourism group and a founding member of Friends of CMS, provides a global outreach for biological diversity and creates the necessary management tools to avoid risk.

Richard Tapper, CMS, highlighted the benefits of wildlife watching tourism and also stressed the necessity of making the economic link to the resource value that tourism offers. Photo courtesy of: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in collaboration with TUI

Richard Tapper, CMS, discussed his findings in the "Wildlife Watching and Tourism Study" stating that tourism is growing and between 20-40% of all international tourists engage in wildlife watching. He also said that tourism only works if it offers the products that tourists want. He gave the examples of sea turtles in Brazil and the monarch butterfly model forest in Mexico as case studies for managing tourism. He added that evaluation of the effectiveness of tourist conservation projects is inadequate, and that it is necessary to understand the conditions which enhance the sustainability of tourism.

Nicolas Entrup, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Germany, highlighted the opportunities and threats relating to whale watching. He elaborated on the "Out of the Blue" (OOTB) project aimed at laying down guidance for sustainable whale watching and narrated the experience in the Península Valdés in Argentina. He clarified that this approach promoted land-based observation, local community involvement and the creation of guidelines.

From left to right: Paola Deda, CMS, Michael Iwand, TUI-AG, Richard Tapper, CMS, Jochen Flasbarth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, and Nick Nutall, UNEP. Photo courtesy of: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in collaboration with TUI

Paola Deda, CMS, called for improved understanding of the biology of watched species and the monitoring of the effects of tourism on them, improved guide training, evaluation of the conditions required for wildlife watching tourism to be a viable option, and improved planning and management of tourism in protected areas and wildlife viewing sites.

[1] Reproduced from ENB on the Side (ENBOTS), IISD Reporting Services (available at http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop8/enbots/24mar.html)

More information:
http://www.unep.orghttp://www.cms.in
http://www.tui-environment.com
http://www.wdcs.org

For further information, please contact:
Jochen Flasbarth <jochen.flasbarth@bmu.bund.de>
Michael Iwand <iwand@tui.com>
Richard Tapper <rtapper@dircon.co.uk>
Nicholas Entrup <niki.entrup@wdcs.org>
Paola Deda <pdeda@cms.int>

Towards an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)

Consultative process towards an IMoSEB

Photo courtesy of: Maxime Thibon
Institut Français de la Biodiversité

The Executive Secretariat of the Consultative Process towards an IMoSEB held a side event during the 8th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The panel included Alfred Oteng Yeboah, co-chair of the IMoSEB consultation, Jacques Weber, Horst Korn, Keping Ma from the Executive Committee for the IMoSEB consultation, and Ignacy Sachs, a socio-economist specialized in development, and Didier Babin and Anne Larigauderie from the IMoSEB consultation secretariat.

Over one hundred people attended the side event, including several members of the International Steering Committee.

The main goal of the side event were to inform the audience on the goals of the Consultative process, to quickly present the Executive and Steering Committees, to present the plan of action and generate a debate with the audience.

After a quick introduction by Didier Babin, Executive Secretary of the consultative process, Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity made some introductory comments, asking the Executive Committee to quickly produce a plan for the consultation and wishing the panel and IMoSEB much success.

Alfred Oteng Yeboah gave an overview power point presentation on the status of the consultative process, its background, the composition of its Steering and Executive Committee.

He presented the results of the first International Steering committee meeting and the plan of action established by the Executive committee.

He explained 1) that the first actions that need to be undertaken are to identify, define and assess the gaps and needs in the science policy interface; 2) that the consultation will be organized in two steps, the first step consisting in ordering a set of studies while continuing to inform the community, and getting feedback, and the second step consisting in launching a wide consultation, based on the information collected during the first step.

Ignacy Sachs, as an international observer and development planner, mentioned the importance to have

(1) advices on biodiversity use in development strategy and (2) advices to have a viable use of biodiversity in development strategy He underlined the positive and practical aspects of the consultation, which will offer decision-makers world wide the means to better integrate biodiversity in their policy.

Anne Larigauderie, member of the Executive Secretariat, chaired the general discussion.

Several participants had questions on the future of the consultative process (its shape, effectiveness, scope, relation with others assessments), and its next steps.

Michael Wells from UNEP, wondered about the final result of the consultation and whether it would be built on an already existing mechanism.

John Robinson, Wildlife Conservation Biology, asked for the relation with others assessments already existing, such as the MA.

Christian Pripp, CBD-SBSTTA Bureau Chairman, supported the consultative process, mentioning the usefulness of such a consultation.

Two representatives of Indigenous people and local community, Vladimir Bocharnikov (Roipon) and Preston Hardison (Tulalip tribes), underlined the need for local approach in the global issue of biodiversity and the need for an increased local and traditional knowledge.

Heikki Toivonen, Finish representative, had a question in relation with the need to use indicators and the need to clarify scientific issues in the process.

Photo courtesy of: Maxime Thibon, Institut Français de la Biodiversité

Anne Teller, from the European Commission mentioned that the result of the consultative process should be simple, non bureaucratic, understandable and reactive.

Leonard Hirsch, Smithsonian Institution, expressed his satisfaction with the way the discussions withn IMoSEB are going, but was concerned also the lack of a clear focus, so far, for the consultation, and for IMoSEB – (1) Will it have a research component?, (2) Will it synthesize information?, (3) Will it translate science for decision makers?, (4) Is it a new mechanism to bridge the academic and the consulting worlds?

Jerry Harrisson, from UNEP-WCMC, declared that the consultative process should focus on the identification of the real need.

Peter Bridgewater, Executive Secretary of the Ramsar Convention, underlined also the good evolution of

the discussion within the consultation. He also mentioned the real need for better quality information in other biodiversity related conventions, even if, sometimes, right information does not lead to wise decision-making. He also mentioned that whether or not there is a future MA would influence the role of, and the results of the consultation.

In their answers, the Executive Committee stressed the fact that the consultation and its plan of action will survey and analyze what is happening nowadays in the transfer of scientific information towards the decision makers. The production of a new assessment is not the objective of the consultation and all the existing biodiversity related knowledge will be used. Understand how to fasten the decision-making processes and not overlap with what has already been done will be a clear focus of the consultation as well as integrate a multilevel approach and involve the local communities in the process.

It has repeatedly mentioned that the consultative process was open and that the Executive committee would complement its composition, and take on board a representatives of the Indigenous people and of the private sector, in particular.

For more information on the consultative process, visit http://www.imoseb.net

The Hoodia Case: The San Experiences with Benefit-Sharing Agreements

Church Development Service

Photo courtesy of: Church Development Service

Anetta Bok (San Council, South Africa) and Mathambo Ngakaeaja (WIMSA - Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa, representative of Botswana) informed the audience about the history of Hoodia use and the importance of the benefit sharing agreements for the international ABS discussion. The San peoples of Southern Africa have known and used the appetite suppressant qualities of the succulent plant Hoodia for hundreds of years. In 1996 the plant's active ingredient was patented by the South African research institute CSIR and licensed for further development to the British company Phytopharm which in turn sold additional licenses to Pfizer, a U.S. drug company, and later to the food multinational Unilever in the Netherlands. Initially, the San had no idea this was happening. After a public outcry and considerable media interest the San were contacted by the patent owners. In 2002 the two sides eventually worked out an agreement that gave the San a small share of the royalties and milestone payment SCIR would receive from Phytopharm in the course of future product developments. A second benefit-sharing agreement was signed between the San and the South African Hoodia Growers in early February 2006 to ensure the San receive some benefits from products being commercialised outside of the CSIR agreement. The income derived from these contracts is paid into a fund that support projects in the San communities.

Kabir Bavikatte (Protimos, South Africa), a legal adviser of the San organizations, analyzed the CSIR patent and the benefit-sharing agreement between the San and CSIR. Despite positive reactions by many stakeholders on this agreement, it has to been recognized that the provisions are highly restrictive with respect to the San as the original rights holders and highly protective with respect to CSIR as the current patent holder. For example, any intellectual property arising from traditional indigenous knowledge of use of Hoodia and related to CSIR belongs to CSIR, the San will not contest CSIR patent, the San will not enter into competing agreement with third parties, the San are not involved in the multi-million dollar licencing negotiations of Phytopharm, and they finally will not benefit from future procuct sales. Through the initial act of biopiracy by CSIR and the extremely broad patent the San's position in the benefit sharing negotiations was very weak annd many concessions have to be made by them.

François Meienberg (Berne Declaration, Switzerland) and Michael Frein (Church Development Service, Germany) informed that that none of currently sold Hoodia products in Switherland or Germany has been developed under a PIC with the San or one of the two mentioned benefit-sharing agreements. The governments of Switzerland and Germany as user countries have not undertaken any measures to oblige the importers ond venders of Hoodia products to comply with the CBD and the Bonn Guildelines -

although both countries were instrumental in developing the Bonn Guidelines. In a joint letter WIMSA, Biowatch (South Africa), Berne Declaration and the Church Development Service urged the governments to act on this issue – to implement the CBD and to restore the rights of the San.

Photo courtesy of: Church Development Service

Kabir Bavikatte (Protimos, South Africa), Mathambo Ngakaeaja (Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa, Botswana), Annetta Bok (San Council, South Africa), Michael Frein (Church Development Service, Germany), François Meienberg (Berne Declaration, Switzerland).

Biodiversity in Sustainability Reporting

CREM B.V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands (www.crem.nl) and supported by the Global Reporting Initiative.

Biodiversity remains one of the most challenging areas for reporting as many companies still have a limited understanding of their relationship to and impact upon biodiversity. Many companies have pointed to the need for general background material that helps companies to understand the link between business and biodiversity for purposes of reporting. Such background material will enable companies to better frame their reporting to key stakeholders. In this light, CREM B.V. (an expert consultancy agency in the field of business and biodiversity) is developing a so-called Biodiversity Resource Document for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). This side event has served to discuss specific issues, dilemmas and challenges that organizations encounter in biodiversity reporting.

The presentation started with an introduction on the GRI basics. GRI started in 1997 and currently serves as an official collaborating centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The reason for establishing GRI is mainly vested in the non-existence of a common framework to support consistency in sustainability reporting. GRI has developed and disseminated globally applicable Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, which can be used for organizations from any sector and of any size. These Guidelines bring sustainability reporting to the same level of comparability, creditability and verifiability as financial reporting. Moreover, they respond to a need for consistent sustainability information: stakeholders wish to learn how companies affect economic, environmental and social components. It is explained that GRI in itself does not develop the Guidelines. GRI facilitates the multi-stakeholder process through which parties of each society level can actively participate in such development. Concluding the GRI basics, the workshop attendants are informed that no regulations exist to oblige organizations to report in accordance with GRI or any other guidelines. The Guidelines are for voluntary use by organizations that wish to report on the economic, environmental and social dimensions of their activities, products and services. It seems as if GRI has some kind of status, though. Organizations appear to use GRI as a kind of marketing instrument highlighting their “in accordance with GRI” reporting. Meanwhile, 817 organizations worldwide (partly) use the Guidelines when reporting on their sustainability performance, including many major companies.

The workshop attendants are informed that GRI is currently updating its Guidelines. The draft 2006 Guidelines are now published for public comments and will be finalized in June 2006. Biodiversity is dealt with in these draft Guidelines as follows:

- Governance, commitments and engagement

GRI has standard disclosure items which specify the base content to appear in a sustainability report. Through ‘governance, commitments and engagement’, organizations are requested to report on e.g. codes of conduct (does the organization have any in the field of biodiversity?), precautionary principle (if there is no certainty about the impact on biodiversity, does this stop the organization from undertaking certain activities?) and stakeholder engagement (how and which stakeholders are involved with biodiversity issues?).

- Disclosure on management approach

The Guidelines contain indicators to report on economic, environmental and social performance. Organizations are requested for each of the indicators (amongst which biodiversity) to report on policy, responsibility, management, goals & performance.

- Environmental performance indicators

The environmental indicators are (1) materials, energy, water; (2) biodiversity; (3) emissions, effluents, waste; (4) suppliers, products, services and (5) compliance, transport, overall. For each of the topics, core and additional indicators have been developed.

The core and additional draft indicators on biodiversity are elucidated and read as follows:

Biodiversity	
Draft Core Indicators	**Draft Additional Indicators**
Location and size of land owned, leased or managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas. • Relating to e.g. geographic location, geographic position in relation to protected areas, type of operation, size of operational site, biodiversity value affected	Area of habitats protected or restored. • Relating to areas where remediation has been completed or the area is actively protected by the organization. Size and location of areas should be stated and whether it has been approved by independent external experts.
Description of significant impacts of activities on protected areas. • Relating to e.g. pollution, invasive species, reduction of species, habitat conversion, changes in ecological processes, extent of areas impacted, duration of impact, whether it is (ir)reversible, etc. Concerns both positive and negative impacts.	Programs for managing impacts on biodiversity. • Related to organization's programs, examples of which include environmental impact assessments, risk exposure assessments concerning biodiversity and process monitoring.

	Number of IUCN Red List species with habitats in areas affected by operations broken down by level of extinction risk. • Related to identification of areas with Red List species, stating number and kind of species identified.

Some reporting examples show how biodiversity can be dealt with. It is explained that it was difficult to find biodiversity examples, although it is generally acknowledged that biodiversity is essential for companies and a growing interest exists from the side of stakeholders. Many organizations feel that their linkage with biodiversity is limited (and mention "not applicable" when it comes to the biodiversity indicators in their sustainability reports) although e.g. land use is the least thing that larger companies to a significant extend do, which in any causes an impact on biodiversity (either positive or negative). Also indirect impacts through activities in the supply chain should be reported on.

As it shows, reporting organizations may not all be well acquainted with the specifics of biodiversity. In fact, many organizations may not even be aware of the impact their activities have on biodiversity although each organization does have one. What exactly is biodiversity? When do the organization's activities affect biodiversity in a negative way? To whom can the organization address when wishing to obtain additional information on biodiversity? The workshop attendants are informed that the Biodiversity Resource Document is currently being prepared to address specific issues, dilemmas and challenges in biodiversity reporting. Four dilemmas and challenges are highlighted during the side-event and discussion statements are given for each of them.

Dilemma 1: Reporting boundaries/traceability

Which information should be included in the report? This has to do with:
- Significance of the impact.
- Whether or not biodiversity is a material risk to shareholders.
- Traceability and influence in the product chain.

Discussion statement:

It is not feasible to include the biodiversity performance of the entire supply chain(s) in corporate sustainability reports.

Dilemma 2: Impact versus management of impact
This has to do with:
- Reporting on biodiversity policy (management, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, etc.).
- How to report on actual impact: simplify reporting e.g. by initial analysis of potential significant impacts? Report on the major impacts/best & worst practices?

Discussion statement:
Reporting on the management of biodiversity impacts is sufficient and more valuable to most stakeholders using sustainability reports than operational impact data.

Dilemma 3: Global reporting, local impacts
This has to do with:
- How to add up local impacts? Need for a methodology/overall impact parameters?
- A reference in corporate reports to on site reports?

Discussion statement:
Global reporting on local impacts requires the development of a general reporting methodology translating local impact data to a corporate (reporting) level.

Dilemma 4: Assessment of biodiversity impact
How can an organization assess its impact? This has to do with:
- Knowledge, expertise within the company on activities and (potential) impacts.
- Availability of practical tools.
- Cooperation with local experts, NGOs.

No discussion statement.

The dilemmas are discussed with a panel consisting of:
- Andrew Parsons, Programme Director, International Council on Mining & Metals
- Steven de Bie, Group Senior Advisor Environment, Shell International
- Jonathan Ekstrom, Programme Coordinator Rio Tinto-BirdLife International Programme, BirdLife International

The workshop attendants are requested for their input.

With respect to the first dilemma, panel remarks are:
- It is not feasible to include all direct and indirect biodiversity impacts arising throughout the supply chain in corporate reporting. Reasons for this are vested in restricted sources (capacity, pages in report) and due to the fact that this would be impossible from an accounting point of view (it has to be verifiable).

- Reporting should at least include entities over where there is direct control or for which there is legal responsibility.
- There is little guidance available for organizations to report in this respect, especially when it comes to indirect or secondary impacts (although in many cases these are even greater than the primary impacts).

The audience stresses that one of the purposes of reporting on biodiversity is that risks associated with biodiversity are recognized and shared. It is therefore important for organizations to give as much information as possible. It is suggested to focus on involving suppliers in this dilemma and to try to work with biodiversity responsible organizations only (suppliers, buyers, etc.). In response to the remark on limiting reporting to legal responsibility, it is stated that not involving the entire supply chain could lead to a situation where bad performing divisions of an organization are sold, after which the products of such divisions are bought (i.e. the previous divisions of the organization become the 'new' suppliers).

With respect to the second dilemma, panel remarks are:
- It is generally acknowledged that both reporting on biodiversity management as well as on biodiversity performance is important. Reporting on management only is not sufficient.
- It is explained that operational impact data are mostly processed in site reports, while governance and management of biodiversity risks are covered on corporate level.
- It is signalled that performance indicators are less developed and therefore receive less focus than management indicators.

The audience reacts that it indeed does not wish to learn only the fact that environmental impact assessments have been performed, but also the results thereof and how the organization has responded to it. It is said that reporting should reflect the chain from a biodiversity impact/risk point of view and how this has been addressed by the organization. This is for stakeholders to ensure: Has the organization spotted (potential) impacts and risks and which are the results of measures/actions adopted in relation thereto?

Unfortunately, limited time is available to discuss the third dilemma. Panel remarks are:
- The need is stressed for indicators to report on and comprise operational data in corporate level reporting.
- It is important that if indicators are set, goals are needed as well.
- It is noted that it is not difficult to develop/generate goal-based indicators for habitats and key species.
- There is more emphasis on corporate level reporting than on site-level reporting. Each organization has to try to manage expectations from shareholders in this respect.

The organizers conclude by thanking the panel and the attendants for their attention and input. The Biodiversity Resource Document is due to be finalized in August 2006. Those interested in being involved during the preparation are requested to contact the organizers.

Organizers: Wijnand Broer (broer.w@crem.nl) and Jolanda van Schaick (vanschaick.jm@crem.nl)

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below-Ground Biodiversity Project

CSM-BGBD Project Summary of Project

Introduction

The Conservation and sustainable management of below ground biodiversity (CSM-BGBD) is a global project being implemented in three continents and covering seven countries including: Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Uganda. The project purpose is to enhance awareness, knowledge and understanding of below-ground biodiversity functions (BGBD) important for sustainable agricultural production in tropical landscapes by demonstrating alternative methods for conservation and sustainable management of land use practices and BGBD. The funding of the project is cost shared between The Global Environment facility (GEF) and the governments of the participating countries. The implementation support is provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) while the global execution is by the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The implementation of the project began in 2002 and is expected to continue until 2009. The expected outcomes of the project include: developing internationally accepted standard methods for characterizing and evaluating BGBD, including a set of indicators for BGBD loss; carry out an inventory of and evaluate BGBD at benchmark sites that represent a range of globally significant ecosystems and land uses, and develop a global information exchange network for BGBD; identify sustainable and replicable management practices for BGBD conservation, and implement the practices in pilot demonstration sites in representative tropical forest landscapes in the seven countries; recommend alternative land-use practices and advisory support systems with policies that will enhance conservation of BGBD; improve capacity of all associated institutions and stakeholders to implement conservation and management of BGBD in a sustainable and efficient manner.

The participating countries ratified the Conventional of Biological Diversity commonly known as the CBD in different years with Brazil ratifying it on 28th February, 1994; Cote d'Ivoire, 29th November, 1994; India, 18th February, 1994; Indonesia, 23rd August, 1994; Kenya, 26th July, 1994; Mexico, 11th March, 1994; and Uganda, 8th September, 1993.

Highlights

The project has so far held four global workshops, the first one was in Wageningen in 2002, in The Netherlands; the second in February 2003 in Lampung, Indonesia; the third in 2004 in Embu, Kenya; and the last one was in 2005 in Manaus, Brazil. The purpose of the global meetings is to normally compare progress, design strategy, fine tune methodology and define forward motion pathways. The annual meeting in 2005 presented a good opportunity where the participating countries presented the results of their work and were able to compare results and share experience between countries through oral transactions and interactions.

During 2005 two international training courses were organized at the global level two having been held in 2004 and two in 2003. One training course was on the ecology and taxonomy of termites and ants. The termites

training course covered several topics on termites and ants. Topics covered included termite and ants biology, taxonomies and functional groups with the facilitators distributing literature on the ecology of termites and ants, their evolution, assemblages and distribution in forests and other ecosystems, the facilitators also presented field sampling methods, sample preservation, identification and classification of termites and ants among other relevant topics. The feeding characteristics, gut content and humification of the feeding substrate were also covered providing characteristics of the feeding groups based on order of humification of the feeding substrate. Discussions were also held between the countries on minimum datasets that would be common to all the countries. Other global level training workshops covered during the first tranche of the project included: economic valuation of BGBD; molecular methods for characterization and identification of BGBD, nematodes ecology and taxonomy, and mycorrhizal fungi inventory and characterization. These were conducted in different project countries with participation of project implementing country representatives.

Achievements

So far the project has made achievements revolving around the five expected project outcomes. Just to highlight a few, during the annual meeting in Brazil in 2005, a total of 71 papers were presented in six technical sessions. The technical sessions included: Biodiversity, geography, and socio-economic characterization of the benchmark sites; the inventory of macro-fauna; the inventory of nematodes and mesofauna; the inventory of legume nodulating bacteria; the inventory of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF); the inventory of pathogenic and antagonistic fungi and the standard methods for the inventory of BGBD. In addition to these there were task force reports on Ecosystem Services, Land Use Intensity, and Economic Valuation of BGBD. There was also a report of the technical committee on the transactions including four planning sessions. The output from the annual meeting are two reports one on the Standard Methods for the Assessment of Soil Biodiversity in the Context of Land Use Practices and the other is the Technical Report of the Project Annual Meeting, April, 2005 all existing as separate volumes of the CSM-BGBD reports. The technical papers are being peer reviewed with an intention of either publishing a book out of them or having them fair printed in special project report issues for a wider circulation.

Important outputs from the countries and contained in the papers included the following observations, there was an observed decrease in earthworm biomass with increasing land use intensity in Indonesia; BGBD accounts for a total of US$ 180 million in benefits alone through nitrogen fixation using promiscuous soybean cultivars in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Brazil the project involved over 70 students undertaking both undergraduate and postgraduate studies the country scientists and students collecting well over 11,700 nematode specimens and 4,000 bacteria; Kenya isolated 21 species of pythium fungi (pathogenic fungi) with the highest number being associated with cultivated soils; in Mexico, bradyrhizobial nodulating bacteria in native forest trees were no longer recovered including registering more than 50 species of mycorrhizal fungi which correspond to 25% of the known species in the whole world in addition, Mexico used a native rhizobia species Rhizobium etli as a bio-fertilizer to increase bean yields by 35-43% and lower production costs by 50% converting to an economic gain of US$ 0.63/kg bean; Uganda isolated 13 species of earthworms with 11 species believed to be of African origin; India, Brazil and Indonesia have published three books on below-ground biodiversity titled Soil Biodiversity, ecological Processes and Landscape Management (Oxford and IBH Publishing, New Delhi, India, ISBN 81-204-1617-1) and Soil Biodiversity in Amazonian and Other Brazilian Ecosystems (CABI Publishing, Cromwell Press, United Kingdom, ISBN10: 1-84593-032-0; ISBN-13: 978-1-84593-032-5) and Conservation and

Sustainable Management of Below-Ground Biodiversity in Indonesia (Universitas, Lampung, Indonesia, ISBN 979-8287-69-X) respectively. Kenya has published a total of five peer refereed papers in the Journal of Tropical Microbiology Volume 3, Number 1, October 2004; ISBN 1607-4106. In addition to this, since its inception the project has produced 2 MSc theses in Mexico, 3 MSc theses in Brazil and 1 PhD thesis in Brazil.

Looking Ahead

The project got a formal approval from GEF to continue into its second tranche (2006 – 2009) and the pro-ject documents formally signed by UNEP on 1st May 2006. This new phase carries many challenges including demonstrating the benefits BGBD management in farmers fields and other tropical ecosystems. Some of the approaches to be used in the demonstrations include: a priori analysis of the feasibility of the recommended management options, determining organic matter quality that can be sequestered into the soil, developing and packaging inoculums from a diversity of soil biota all in combination with viable germplasms. These are based on success stories already achieved and documented while some are still being worked upon. As an example, it has been demonstrated that earthworms may produce up to 140 tons per hectare of casts that apart from sequestering carbon, allow for other nutrient cycling in the soil and improve soil structure and micro-aggregates. Inoculums of LNB and mycorrhiza have formed symbiots with different crops that have resulted to reasonable increase in crop yields and biomass yields that feed directly into incomes, human livelihoods and environmental resilience.

The project also recognizes that most agricultural activities (both productivity and production) are centered on rural populations who are expected to respond to the challenges facing the sector. Many times the rural farmers find themselves in a web of utter despair when farming or environmental conservation solutions are not forthcoming. In a general sense, farming communities need land, incentives, markets, technologies, farm inputs, capital and labour for them to realize farming goals. In many instances, most factors of production are normally beyond the ability of many farmers. It is at this point that policy interventions become important to provide the necessary ingredients for increased production. Using in-depth survey, and analysis, and by involving all stakeholders we intend to discern agricultural production and environmental issues that require policy interventions whether technological, community related, institutional, farmer assistance or provision of agricultural inputs and explicitly sensitize the stakeholders on the need to take deliberate policy action to address them. We intend to recommend policy measures that include: economic instruments, regulations, voluntary or cooperative approaches, promotion of technologies and or dissemination of knowledge in order for our developed technologies to meet their expected outcomes. We will do this as we build local capacities to carry the mantle well beyond the project life cycle through formal and informal training and workshops.

By Dr. Peter F. Okoth and Dr. Jeroen Huising, CSM-BGBD Project
TSBF Institute of CIAT
P.O. Box 30677-00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: p.okoth@cgiar.org; j.huising@cgiar.org
Tel: 254-20-7224775; 254-20-7224772
Fax: 254-20-7224764/63

The Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa: Review of First Experiences, Discussion of Needs and Defining Steps Forward

Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS),
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

This side event was organized to present and discuss the outcome of a ABS capacity-building needs assessment, which was initiated by the organizers of the side event during the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing in Granada, Spain. There the organizers presented results and recommendations of the first Regional ABS Capacity-Building Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa, held from 2 to 6 October 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa by DGIS and GTZ was announced and presented for the first time. The ABS capacity-building needs assessment was intended to provide guidance for the concept and planning of the initiative according to the needs of African stakeholders, including Government authorities and local communities. For the full documentation of the Addis Ababa workshop and the Granada side event refer to www.abs-africa.info.

From left to right: Dr. Andreas Drews (GTZ, Germany), Anne Angwenyi (NEMA, Kenya), Hans Wessls (DGIS, The Netherlands)
Photo courtesy of: GTZ/Suhel al-Janabi

About 70 participants of COP 8 attended the side-event, among them representatives from national governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental (such as IUCN) and non-governmental organisations, indigenous and local community groups as well as academia and industry. The side event was structured as follows:

Introduction

Background of the Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa by Hans Wessels, Head Natural Resources and Ecosystems Management, DGIS, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- ABS situation with focus on Africa
- Capacity-building requirements
- Objectives of the capacity-building initiative

Overview of the first Regional ABS Capacity-Building Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa (2.-6.10.2005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) including brochure launch

Anne Angwenyi, Ag. Director Legal Services of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya, highlighted in her overview various bioprospecting examples such as the commercialization of the Devil's claw, used as an anti-inflammatory agent which has enabled communities in Botswana to improve their livelihoods despite the absence of an ABS agreement. She further mentioned an Ethiopian-Dutch ABS agreement regarding teff, an endemic cereal crop, which has been concluded between the Ethiopian Institute for Biodiversity Conservation

and a commercial breeder. She highlighted that the participants at the Addis Ababa workshop called for clear-cut definitions and the avoidance of duplication of regional capacity building efforts in addition to the need for regionally harmonized ABS regulations.

For the full text of the Addis Ababa workshop recommendations refer to UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/4/INF/9 (www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/abs/abswg-04/information/abswg-04-inf-09-en.pdf). The brochure summarizing the bioprospecting cases and examples of ABS regulations presented in Addis Ababa is available at www.abs-africa.info/followup.html.

Presentation and discussion of an ABS capacity-building needs assessment in Africa.

Photo courtesy of: GTZ/Suhel al-Janabi

Kabir Bavikatte, Director for Africa, Protimos (an international network of lawyers working on environmental issues and sustainable development), elaborated on the outcome of the ABS capacity-building needs assessment which was conducted between January and March 2006. He explained that 17 out of 52 African countries participated in the assessment mostly through Government authorities but some NGOs as well.

He summarized the results as follows:

- Capacity-building for ABS is an "urgent" issue for all stakeholders.
- High importance is given to the local and the national level: Two thirds of the respondents consider capacity-building at the local level at least as "important" whereas almost all respondents consider capacity-building at the national level as "important".
- Capacities to develop national legislation and implementing regulations for such legislation are "urgent" and "indispensable" issue. This includes regulations on intellectual property rights, but also regional harmonisation – cross-border issues –, transparency and more involvement of all stakeholders are considered as "important".
- Human resource development is "urgent". Most "important" issues are capacities for the implementation of ABS regulations and awareness raising, including CHM and public information.
- Negotiation skills are "indispensable", information management skills "important" but both skills are not an "urgent" requirement, whereas legal skills and technical skills were hardly mentioned at all.
- The monitoring and evaluation of ABS cases is considered as "important" and "urgent" issues.
- Capacity-building for conducting inventories of biological and genetic resources as well as traditional knowledge is "important" and "urgently" required.
- Screening, marketing and taxonomy are the most important and urgently required techniques.

Elements for the Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative

Dr. Andreas Drews, Programme "People and Biodiversity" Implementing the Biodiversity Convention, GTZ, explained that the initiative is initially planned for three years. At the beginning the regional focus will remain on Eastern and Southern Africa, but the other regions will be included soon, as a strong demand for ABS capacity-building has been articulated by the French speaking countries in Central and Western Africa. Based on previous experiences of GTZ in Africa as well as other regions and the results of the capacity-building needs assessment the organizers are proposing the following elements to shape the initiative:

- Multi-stakeholder workshops – e.g. follow-up on bioprospecting cases, updates on legislation/ regulations, needs oriented topics
- Issue-focused / stakeholder-focused trainings – e.g. negotiation skills, legal issues, outreach approaches, monitoring, project planning and design
- Peer-to-peer knowledge exchange – e.g. local-local learning exchange, govt.-govt. on-the-job exchange
- Virtual platform for information exchange – e.g. African knowledge base (documentation of bio-prospecting cases, updates on legislation/regulations), finally serving as the regional ABS CHM
- ABS best practices – e.g. facilitating fair and equitable ABS show case projects (North-South PPP)
- Regional background studies – e.g. analyses and approaches for implementing current and future elements of the international regime in the African context; options for regional harmonization
- Side-events at relevant meetings – e.g. exchange with the international negotiation process and other regions

Discussion with participants on the feasibility of the capacity-building initiative

The discussion round which was moderated by Dr. Andreas Drews generally gave a positive feedback on the planned capacity-building initiative. Furthermore, one participant noted that Devil's claw had been commercialized already in the 1950's and raised the issue of retrospective ABS. Another participant observed that in many African countries lack of community cohesion has allowed inappropriate access without prior informed consent based on mutually agreed terms.

Film preview: Teff – an Ethiopian-Dutch Bioprospecting Case

To conclude the side event a 10 min documentary of an Ethiopian-Dutch bioprospecting case was shown, which was aired by German TV in the ZDF/3sat science magazine "nano" during COP 8 as an illustration of the issues under discussion in Curitiba.

For further information, please contact:

Anne Angwengi: anne_angwengi@alumni.tufts.edu - www.nema.go.ke
Kabir Bavikatte: kabir.bavikatte@protimos.org - www.protimos.org
Dr. Andreas Drews: andreas.drews@gtz.de - www.gtz.de/biodiv
Hans Wessels: hans.wessels@minbuza.nl - www.minbuza.nl

Further information: www.abs-africa.info

Conserving Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes: Challenges and Priorities for the CBD

Ecoagriculture Partners

Ecoagriculture Partners was joined by a panel of leaders representing international agricultural agencies, NGOs and community-based organizations to address the challenges of sustaining productivity and improving rural livelihoods in a variety of agricultural landscapes, while also conserving biodiversity – not only crop/livestock genetic diversity, but also the wild biodiversity and associated ecosystem services. Innovative ecosystem-/landscape-scale approaches were presented on the role of agroforestry systems in landscape management (Mohamed Bakarr, World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF); the landscape management of the Kalinga Rice terraces to sustain food and environmental security (Donato Bumacas, Kalinga Mission for Youth and Indigenous Peoples, Philippines) and the sustainable utilisation of crop biodiversity by the Chimbeme community (Gladman Chibememe, Chibememe Earth Healing Association, Zimbabwe). In follow-up to presentations, discussion focused on key messages to the CBD as it prepares for its 2008 focus on agricultural biodiversity.

Summarizing discussion points, Claire Rhodes, Ecoagriculture Partners, highlighted the need to:

1. Increasingly coordinate the agendas of the CBD and MDGs to support landscape-scale strategies that jointly achieve biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, rural livelihood improvement and sustainable agricultural production;
2. Empower ecoagriculture practitioners— local communities, farmers, pastoralists and others to play a central role in national and international policy processes;
3. Support this strategy with a focused program of research, knowledge exchange and capacity-building across communities and across sectors, building upon the expertise and knowledge that already exists amongst community-based practitioners.

Copies of presentations from the side event will be available at Ecoagriculture Partners' Website: www.ecoagriculturepartners.org. For further information on side event presentations and discussions, please contact Claire Rhodes, crhodes@ecoagriculturepartners.org

Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification Synergies

Environment Canada

The three Rio conventions — the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD — were "born" together after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With COP 8 being held in Brazil, it was perhaps fitting that opportunities for synergies could be discussed in more detail during this side event.

The issues covered by the three Rio conventions, namely biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land use and desertification, are inextricably linked. Because of their linkages, there are many examples at regional, national and international scales where integrated joint work on the synergies between the issues and their Conventions will be more effective than dealing with each separately. In recognition of the importance of these synergies, Environment Canada organized a side event for COP 8 on March 22 (evening). The side event explored opportunities for synergies between the Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity conservation and desertification risk reduction while respecting the mandates of each. The event featured speakers from the World Wildlife Foundation, Columbia, Canada, Inter-American Institute for Global Research and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

The side event presentations all illustrated the vulnerability of ecosystems to the changing climate, particularly in conjunction with other stressors. The presentations highlighted guidance for synergistic actions, including the following:

- As stated in the recent CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) report, autonomous adaptation, or biodiversity's natural responses to changing climate and environmental conditions, will be insufficient to reduce the additional losses of biodiversity expected as a result of a changing climate. As a result, planned adaptation activities are urgently needed to slow the rate of biodiversity loss;
- Planned adaptation encompasses efforts to restore resilience to ecosystems since resilient ecosystems maintain biodiversity and continue to deliver ecosystem goods and services and protect human communities from climate hazards such as erosion, flooding and water conservation. At the same time, it is essential that the rate and amount of future changes be reduced through greenhouse gas mitigation;
- In many sectors, adaptation activities are already taking place and adverse effects to biodiversity can be minimized in advance if biodiversity is incorporated into adaptation planning;
- Biodiversity adaptation strategies and resilience building have limits. If adaptation and resilience building actions are delayed, studies indicate that many additional species will be lost to the changing climate while management options will become more limited, expensive and often have a low likelihood of success.
- Tracy O'Hearn for the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami indicated that Canada is already seeing the challenges of adapting to a changing climate, with average temperatures in its North warming at rates some

2-3 times greater than the rest of the world. Here, many ecosystems, indigenous cultures, lifestyles and human health are experiencing significant impacts from the changing climate and from other related atmospheric changes, including increasing persistent organic pollutants and ultraviolet radiation levels. Resilience building options in far northern latitudes are scarce but important while GHG mitigation actions are needed to slow the changes.

- Dr Michael Case of World Wildlife Federation International (a contributor to the AHTEG report) presented results from the WWF report, "Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems" and other ongoing studies. The WWF report brings together many useful assessments and potential initial adaptation strategies for various biomes.
- The Inter-American Institute for Global Research (Dr Ricardo Berbara and Ione Anderson) presented results indicating that soil below-ground biodiversity will be needed to counteract impacts from global climate and land use change in the Americas and that soil carbon sinks and ecosystem resilience can be increased through the services provided by key soil microorganisms associated with plants.
- Dr Carlos Costa of the Colombian Institute of Meteorological Hydrological and Environmental Studies and a contributor to the recent AHTEG report, presented highlights from Colombia's Integrated National Adaptation Plan and proposed various innovative strategies that could support increased synergies among the conventions and their goals. One focus of the GEF funded Integrated National Adaptation Plan will be on ecosystem management plans, adaptation options and farm decision-support in high mountain ecosystems and coastal areas.

Other outcomes of the side event included informal plans for collaborative actions by several countries in developing adaptation guidance for the management of ecosystems under changing climate conditions through more extensive analyses of regional case studies. The side event also provided an opportunity to announce a biodiversity and climate change workshop in Panama for spring 2007.

Monitoring the 2010 Target - The European Contribution to CBD Implementation: Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010)

European Commission and the European Environment Agency

Photo courtesy of: European Commission and the European Environment Agency

The workshop was well attended with about 100 participants from a wide range of countries and organisations, including non- European countries.

Anne Teller from the European Commission introduced the workshop and highlighted the specific policy context of the European Union (EU). In 2002, the EU committed itself to halting biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010 and a substantial consultative assessment of implementation of its biodiversity strategy was undertaken, which culminated in the Malahide conference in Ireland in 2004 consensus on priority objectives and related targets towards achieving the 2010 commitments. The European Commission is currently finalising its biodiversity communication for a prioritised set of measures, which will be accompanied by a detailed roadmap on actions, responsibilities and timetable to halt the biodiversity decline, and a list of indicators to track progress in achieving this target. (see http:europa.eu.int)

Gordon McInnes, Deputy Director of the European Environment Agency, presented the process launched at European level to develop a first set of 2010 indicators as part of SEBI2010. It is based on the global guidelines and best information available from a wide range of expertise, including governments, international organisations, research community and NGOs. It aims at giving a coherent and integrated picture of the state of biodiversity in Europe and is meant to be meaningful to a range of audiences in supporting both policy action and communicating progress towards the target. More information can be found on EC-CHM web site.

Ivonne Higuero from UNEP highlighted the added-value of having a pan-European process. SEBI 2010, initially meant to cover the EU (25 countries) was extended to the pan-European level (52 countries) with the support of the governments of Switzerland and Norway. This included the participation in meetings of experts from the Balkans and central and East European countries, and trainings to reinforce capacity-building in these countries. There are lessons to be learned from this constructive cooperation process to be shared with other regions.

Andrew Stott from DEFRA, UK complemented the European picture with the work undertaken in parallel by UK government to produce a small set of biodiversity indicators to show progress in achieving the national specific target of reversing biodiversity decline in UK by 2010. Lessons are to be drawn from this practical experience on how these indicators relate to European and global indicators, including gaps and assessment difficulties. Finally, the focus was broadened by Jeremy Harrison, from UNEP WCMC who reminded that the initial commit-

ment was the adoption of a list of global indicators according to seven Focal areas to track progress in achieving the global target for reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The choice of these indicators was mainly driven by the availability of data from international organisations. This was an ad hoc process and there was no associated mechanism set up for delivery. The objective of the Global 2010 Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, led by UNEP-WCMC with CBD Secretariat, and supported by GEF, EU and UK is to start a global process of bringing together international organisations to deliver, encourage partnership, within and between global and regional levels.

There was a good exchange with the audience during which key issues were highlighted such as the implications for monitoring of indicator development, the issue of ecosystems connectivity, the need to accompany such a process with scientific peer-review and policy action, the importance of building capacity in some non European countries, the inclusion of indicators on the impact of EU policies on the rest of the world, and the difficulty to ensure inter-linkages between global, regional and national ones.

For further information, please contact:

Anne Teller
European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
Unit 'Nature & Biodiversity'
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32-2-2993856
Fax: +32-2-2990895
Email: Anne.Teller@ec.europa.eu

European Research Results' Contribution to CBD Implementation

European Commission

Understanding biodiversity is perhaps the most challenging intellectual and scientific puzzle that mankind has ever faced. It is an issue with complex social, economic, cultural, and ecological dimensions, covering huge ranges of scale in space and time. The crisis and stakes are global while many pressures and drivers have local elements and solutions may require detailed local or regional knowledge.

On 23 March a side event hosted by the delegation of the European Community showcased how research can contribute to the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity. About 60 delegates from all continents participated in the event.

The speakers' panel consisted of the co-ordinators of five major European research projects currently supported by the EU with about 60 million €. The projects on display offered a cross-cut of EU-supported research results that support implementation of the CBD's work programmes and action plans to combat the ongoing loss of biodiversity.

Photo courtesy of: European Commission

The projects provide ample evidence for the urgent need of action and more importantly they help to obtain up-to date information needed for informed decision making and improved implementation of policy measures in an accessible form. In addition they are a valuable vehicle for education and awareness raising.

The findings of ALARM [1] project on assessing large scale environmental risks for biodiversity will help to fill knowledge gaps in particular with a view to the risks for biodiversity in relation to climate change, biological invasions, pollinator loss, environmental chemicals and socio-economic pressure. It works towards a Risk Assessment toolkit (ALARM RAT) - inter alia - to obtain up-to date information in an accessible form, which is crucial for effective implementation of biodiversity policy measures.

The HERMES [2] project gives insights into the biodiversity, structure, function and dynamics of ecosystems along Europe's deep-ocean margin, which proof the importance of the deep-sea biodiversity. It demonstrates hotspot microbial habitats and provides valuable information to bring forward the protection of deep-seabed resources.

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[1] ALARM – Assessing large scale environmental risks on biodiversity with tested methods : http://www.alarm project.net
[2] HERMES – Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of the European Seas : http://www.eu-hermes.net

The MARBEF [3] project on marine biodiversity and ecosystem function aims to advance understanding patterns of marine biodiversity and to explain the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and understanding the human factor. The presented results of both projects underpinned both the Programme of Work (PoW) on Marine and coastal biodiversity on as well as the PoW on Protected Areas. They contribute to the identification of vulnerable ecosystems and species in marine areas.

The ALTER-Net [4] project is building a long-term biodiversity, ecosystem and awareness research network for understanding, predicting and managing change in biodiversity, landscapes and ecosystem services also taking into account the social, cultural and political context. It aims to develop approached to assess and forecast changes in biodiversity and its effect on ecosystems and their services. Results will underpin policy implementation and informed decision making.

Finally the EDIT [5] project, which was only recently launched, aims to integrate European taxonomic efforts and build a world leading capacity by creating a European virtual centre of excellence for taxonomy. This will reinforce the "Global Taxonomy Initiative" (GTI).

ALTER-net, MARBEF and EDIT are involved in the networking initiative LIFE WATCH which shall embrace LTER sites, marine reference and focal sites and nature science, collections & and observation.

The event was covered by ENB on the side (http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop8/enbots/) of 23 March 2006.

For further information, please contact:
Karin Zaunberger
European Commission
Research Directorate-General
Unit "Management of Natural Resources and Services - Sector Biodiversity and Ecosystems"
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32-2-2962172, Fax: +32-2-2950568
Email: Karin.Zaunberger@ec.europa.eu

[3] MARBEF – Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem functioning : http://www.marbef.org
[4] ALTER-net - A long term biodiversity and ecosystems awareness research network : http://www.alter-net.info
[5] EDIT – European Distributed Institute for Taxonomy : started on 1 March 2006 no webpage available yet

Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2010 – Implementing the CBD by the European Union

European Commission

The evening workshop was well attended with about 80 participants from a wide range of countries and organisations, including non-European countries. The speakers' table was flanked on both sides by banners of the Countdown 2010 initiative of the IUCN, which is originally a European process supported by the European Commission, and which is receiving increasing attention and recognition globally.

Stavros Dimas, the Environment Commissioner of the European Commission opened the workshop and introduced the biodiversity policy of the European Union (EU). After a brief description of the state of biodiversity in the EU and the need for urgent action, he informed the audience of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its related action plans and other policies and legislation of the EU relevant to biodiversity. In 2003 the European Commission started a substantial review of the implementation of this strategy, with stakeholder involvement. He informed the participants that the European Commission was finalising a communication to the Council and the European Parliament on biodiversity which would contain a prioritised set of measures. Attached to the communication will be a detailed action plan outlining specific actions, responsibilities and timetable to halt the biodiversity decline in the EU by 2010 and beyond, with a list of indicators (in line with the CBD global framework) to tracking the progress.

Batt O'Keefe, T.D. Minister of State of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of Ireland described Ireland's contribution to the review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in their capacity as the Presidency of the EU during the first half of 2004. The review process that started a year earlier culminated in a large stakeholder conference held in Malahide, Ireland, in May 2004, which was preceded by a meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), which made an important contribution to prioritising research activities for biodiversity. The Malahide conference agreed on a set of objectives, measures and indicators which provided a very important input to the work of the Commission in drafting the Communication on biodiversity. It was also in Malahide that the IUCN Countdown 2010 initiative was officially launched. He stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement and the role of member states. Finally he recalled the role Ireland played as the incumbent Presidency of the EU during the busy COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Werner Wutscher, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria spoke in the name of the current Presidency of the EU. He highlighted the role of the Presidency in representing the Community, its Member States and the Candidate Countries, and pointed out that during the term of the Austrian Presidency, there would be limited time in the Council to reflect upon the Commission's proposal. He pointed out that in the 7th Framework Programme, there would be continued opportunities for biodiversity-related research projects. He also described how the Austrian state forestry organisation, which also manages some protected areas besides commercial activities, has joined the "Countdown 2010" initiative of IUCN.

The presentations were followed by a good exchange of views with the audience. Several members of the European Parliament, who were members of the EC delegation, were also present and they expressed their high expectations of the communication from the Commission on biodiversity. Interventions were made by delegates from some member states of the EU expressing support for the review process. Some delegates representing non-governmental organisations also joined the debate.

For further information, please contact:

András Demeter
European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
Unit 'Nature & Biodiversity'
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32-2-2963245
Fax: +32-2-2990895
Email: Andras.Demeter@ec.europa.eu

The First International Technical Conference Animal Genetic Resources and the First Report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Switzerland

This side event provided an update on the progress made in the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. It was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Switzerland. About 35 persons from governments and NGOs attended.

Speakers were
Dr. Irene Hoffmann, Chief of Animal Production Service, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO
Dr. François Pythoud, Senior Policy Adviser, Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture, Switzerland

In her presentation "The Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources with its first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources", Irene Hoffmann first described the Global Strategy as it was approved by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). Since 1983 the CGRFA has been a permanent forum where governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture. It has 165 Member Countries, including most of the least developing countries. The Commission guides and monitors FAO's policies and activities in this field, and provides for effective cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and with other interested international governmental and non-governmental organizations of the trade and the environment. Hoffmann indicated that the Global Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide international efforts in the animal genetic resources sector and to assist countries in developing their capacity to manage their animal genetic resources. Already the COP 3 of the CBD had appreciated the Global Strategy and strongly supported its further development. The preparation of the country-driven First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, as the reporting component under the Global Strategy, has been the focus of her group at FAO since 2001. COP 6 of the CBD had welcomed that this FAO process will contribute to conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing in the area of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and had encouraged CBD Parties to participate in the development of the first Report. Today, 170 country reports have been received by FAO, after a comprehensive awareness-raising and training programme at national and regional level.

Hoffman indicated that work on plant genetic resources is at an advanced stage, with the International Treaty for Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a legal instrument, whereas the AnGR agenda so far lacks such an instrument. She emphasized major differences between both; while ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources is relatively easy and there is uniformity within varieties or lines, the conservation of AnGR is mainly done in-situ by local communities and farmers with genetic variation within and between breeds. Breeds are the main unit of conservation, and contrary to plants, centers of domestication or wild relatives have no important role in present world animal production and breeding.

Noting the ongoing work for the preparation of the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, Hoffman said it has led to an increase of available breed data at national and global level, data which are used for global diversity assessments. To reduce double counting, FAO has now classified breeds into local and transboundary categories (these are breeds that are reported in more than one country). She indicated difficulties and problems in reporting, in particular in developing countries, stressing that capacity-building is a priority for many countries.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture had decided that the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources should be finalized at the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in 2007. In his presentation "First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources", François Pythoud announced that this conference will be held in September 2007, in Interlaken, Switzerland. He explained the reasoning of the Swiss government to offer hosting this important event, based on its continuous support to the FAO program for conservation and sustainable management of genetic resources for food and agriculture. Ten years after the Leipzig Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and bearing in mind the increasing part of animal derived products in global food supply, Switzerland sees this Conference as the critical milestone for the implementation of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources to ensure conservation and sustainable use of a broad genetic basis for the development of the livestock sector.

The Conference will provide the opportunity to reach agreement on how best to address priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the various stakeholders and policy-makers, of the significance of farm animal genetic resources. It will discuss the scientific/technical topics such as domestication, breeding and conservation of animal genetic resources, their different roles and functions, and zoo-sanitary aspects of their exchange, management and conservation, which will set the background for the negotiations of global and regional strategic priorities for actions. Pythoud explained the programme which, besides the official part, will provide space for stakeholders to present their programmes in animal genetic resources. Switzerland will organize field trips and offer to NGOs and other stakeholders the opportunity to hold side events.

Conservation and Livelihoods: Experiences and Perspectives from Fauna & Flora International

Fauna & Flora International

Chair: Evan Bowen-Jones, Director of Americas Programme, FFI

Speakers: Ali Kaka, Executive Director, East African Wild Life Society
Paulo Sgroi, Amainan
Barney Dickson, Head of International Policy, FFI

Evan Bowen-Jones explained that Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and its partners seek to link their conservation work with the promotion of local livelihoods. The meeting examined the opportunities and challenges of this work, at both project and policy level. There were presentations from two of FFI's partners, based in East Africa and in Brazil, and a discussion of addressing livelihoods at the international policy level.

Ali Kaka, of the East African Wild Life Society, described how, in the Kuruwitu coastal area of Kenya, where natural resources have been severely over-utilized by locals and migrants, the community on its own initiative decided to close certain areas to fishing, create other sources of income, monitor fishing areas and instigate self-regulatory systems. He said that has led to improvements on resources and fish takes, improvements in degraded areas and living standards and an improved sense of ownership.

Paulo Sgroi of Amainan Brasil, highlighted some of the challenges in carrying out community conservation and livelihood initiatives in a project in the Vale do Ribeiro, Brazil.

Barney Dickson discussed two pieces of policy work which FFI was engaged in. The first concerned the recently completed Guidelines for Applying the Precautionary Principle to Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management. Several of these guidelines seek to ensure that, in applying the principle, the livelihoods of the poor are improved rather than made worse. The second concerned an on-going initiative to address impact of CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor. These two pieces of work share the view that, in carrying out their work, conservation agencies should not harm the livelihoods of the poor.

In the discussion it was emphasised that conservation agencies were still learning how to address livelihood issues; that they should aim not just to 'do no harm' but also to provide positive benefits to the poor; and that there is a need to ensure that conservation agencies do indeed deliver on their commitments to address livelihood issues.

Intellectual Propriety Rights: The Transformation of Biodiversity, Traditional Seeds, and Collective Knowledge into Corporate Private Monopoly

Federal University of Paraná [1] – Brazil. <ndi@ufpr.br>
Presented by the Expositors: FONSECA, Karen; FONSECA, Karla Closs; BHATTI, Shakeel; WATAL, Jayashree.

The event was presented in two languages, Portuguese and English, on March 30th.

The main focus of the event was to bring into discussion the problems regarding illicit activities made by scientists and industries to gain rights of exploration of native species (including seeds) and traditional knowledge. Many ethnical groups in Brazil have extensive traditional knowledge that was developed over centuries, by their ancestors. This knowledge not only is spread though the communities, but it is vital for their survival, as many live in poverty and the profit of selling their local products in the small markets is fundamental to grant their basic needs.

The CDB has strong rules against biopiracy but in the middle of Brazilian Amazon forest many times the conditions don't allow the rules to be respected. Traditional communities believe that knowledge is a common good, there is no idea of copyrights, knowledge is shared with all those that are interested. Local *pajés* [2] teach researchers how to prepare potions and medicines to cure diseases (as migraine), researchers return to the laboratories, identify the active substance and register as their laboratories propriety.

The World Intellectual Propriety Organization [3] has mechanisms to avoid misappropriation, such as a database of registered knowledge. The use of illicit means to obtain the copyrights of a certain substance or technology characterizes an act of misappropriation, and these illicit actions include the fraud and deception that are commonly used to obtain Traditional Knowledge. It was stated, on the World Trade Organization [4] issue, that new ideas are being brought by developing countries to prevent misappropriation. The new leading-ideas groups, the G6 shall help in developing these new ideas in the next WTO meeting on July 2006.

The UFPR expressed great concern regarding biopiracy actions in Brazil, where companies mislead indigenous population when discussing about benefit sharing and preservation of the traditional knowledge. The situation is very problematic, specially when the impossibility to determine which tribe is the owner of the

[1] UFPR
[2] shamans
[3] WIPO
[4] WTO

knowledge and should receive part of the profit from the industrialization of their knowledge as it is spread over the different indigenous groups and the Brazilian law has shown it's incapacity to deal with the situation, demanding actions by law entities.

During the third meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the UFPR presented another side event, about the participation of civil society during international conferences. The side event was in fact a debate, where the participants expressed that the participation of civil society groups is necessary for a valid conference and that the discussions held must be largely informed outside the conference, not only by the press, but by NGOs and Universities. The second important point of the discussions was the need to bring civil society's opinions to the discussions on every international conference. This is the main responsibility of the NGOs and education segments, to bring the discussions from the outside to the inside of the conference.

Contact information:

Research Group on International Law from UFPR <ndi@ufpr.br>
Karen Fonseca <karen.fonseca@serc.pr.gov.br>
Karla Closs Fonseca <karla@cbrcj.com.br>
Shakeel Bhatti <shakeel.bhatti@wipo.int>
Jayashree Watal <jayashree.watal@wto.org>

Websites:

www.direito.ufpr.br/ndi
www.wipo.int
www.wto.org

Assessments on Biodiversity Policies – Examples from Finland

Finnish Ministry of the Environment

The side event presented lectures on two recent evaluations on the Finnish biodiversity policies and the new national strategy for the adaptation to the climate change. The event was chaired by Ms. Satu Taiveaho and Mr. Antti Kaikkonen, members of Finland's Parliament

Evaluation of the Finnish National Biodiversity Action Plan 1997-2005

- Prof. Heikki Toivonen, Finnish Environment Institute

The Evaluation has shown that different actors across the society have recognized the need to safeguard biodiversity. Their actions have not, however, succeeded in stopping the depletion of original biological diversity. The objective to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010 will not be achieved given the current development, and will remain a challenging task. Although the ambitious goals of the Action Plan have remained partly unfulfilled, the plan and its actions have had many positive and intended effects. The Action Plan has supported public discussion on the need to safeguard biodiversity, and several concrete measures have been undertaken in forests, agricultural habitats and in other habitats significantly affected by human activities. Biodiversity research has expanded significantly and the knowledge of Finland's biological diversity has increased considerably. The evaluation shows that it would be possible to design the actions to be more cost-effective and encouraging. In planning new measures it is very important to pay attention to their cost-effectiveness and also to the incentives that the measures maintain and create. The Evaluation report is available in Finnish on the Internet: http://www.environment.fi/publications, and its main findings will be translated into English in autumn 2006.

Evaluation of Management Effectiviness of Finland´s Protected Areas

- Director Rauno Väisänen, Metsähallitus, Nature Heritage Services

A comprehensive international management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) of the Finnish protected area system was commissioned by the Natural Heritage Services (NHS) in 2004. The evaluation was conducted in the IUCN WCPA framework, but was adopted to the conditions of Finland. The elements of the management cycle considered were context, planning, resources, process, outputs and outcomes. The evaluation team reviewed literature and the rapid self-assessment on 70 protected areas conducted by the NHS. The MEE was finalised by a field assessment, which included visits to representative protected area sites as well as meetings with the NHS staff and representatives of directing ministries, local stakeholder groups and NGOs. The evaluation gives the general rating that Finland's protected areas are well managed, and with some exceptions, they appear to be achieving their aims of conserving biodiversity. However, the evaluators give a number of recommendations for improvements, summed in ten areas of suggested actions. The evaluation report is available in English on the Internet: http://www.metsahallitus.fi/publications

Finland's National Adaptation Strategy

- Prof. Heikki Toivonen, SYKE

Finland prepared in 2004-2005 National Adaptation Strategy as an integral part of the National Energy and Climate Strategy. The adaptation strategy was prepared by the interministerial task force, co-ordinated by the Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry. In preparation of the adaptation strategy, various sectors, as well as research community related to climate change and biodiversity, were involved. The draft strategy was widely commented and reviewed by various sectors and stakeholders, e.g. in the Internet. The strategy gives a detailed account of the impacts of climate change in different sectors, including biodiversity, and presents measures to be taken until 2080. Priorities identified for increasing adaptation include 1) mainstreaming climate change and adaptation into sectoral policies, 2) addressing long-term investments, 3) coping with extreme weather events, 4) improving observation systems, 5) strengthening the research and development base, and 6) international cooperation. It was recommended that the work on adaptation should be started immediately, because in most cases this would also benefit the different sectors under present climatic conditions. The strategy will be reviewed after six to eight years.

The complete strategy is available in English in the Internet: www.mmm.fi/sopeutumisstrategia.

Discussion

In the discussion methodology, costs and results of assessments were discussed, as well as participatory approaches used in preparation of evaluations, environmental awareness, and future of reindeer herding and indigenous communities in a changing climate.

The Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf participated in the side event and mentioned Finland as a positive example in implementing the Convention. He pointed out three aspects: 1) Successful development of sustainable forestry in northern conditions, 2) Finland has already evaluated its protected area system and is one of the three countries that until now have evaluated the efficiency of the National Biodiversity Action Plan. 3) Finland's support to enhancing collaboration between the Rio Conventions. In this context Dr. Djoghlaf mentioned the AHTEG –groups on biodiversity and climate change. Finland has also good experience in training environment experts from developing countries.

The Role of Biodiversity Offsets in Conservation – An Open Roundtable Discussion

Forest Trends

A Roundtable Discussion on the Role of Biodiversity Offsets in Conservation was held on March 21st in Curitiba, Brazil, at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 8). The side event was convened by a number of organizations, including: The Business and Biodiversity Offset Program (BBOP), The Cambridge Centre for Conservation Policy (CCCP), Conservation International (CI), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Forest Trends, The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (US), Rio Tinto, Shell International, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and The World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The event was well attended with about eighty participants. They represented a wide range of sectors including government, NGO's, academia, companies, industry associations and financial lending institutions. A list of meeting participants is attached in Annex 1.

The goal of the meeting was to facilitate an exchange of information and continue a growing dialogue on biodiversity offsets and their role as a mechanism for conservation and sustainable development. This topic was particularly timely at COP 8, where, for the first time, a decision was adopted on private sector engagement, including language on biodiversity offsets. Parties of the CBD called on the private sector to deliberately engage in the implementation of the Convention. Biodiversity offsets are thus a potential mechanism for the private sector to contribute to conservation goals.

The event was moderated by Tom Hammond, Senior Program Officer, IUCN, and included a panel discussion. Proceedings opened with a welcome from Kerry ten Kate, Director of BBOP, and Andrew Parsons, Program Director of ICMM. Andrew referred to the discussion papers that ICMM had published in order to brief its members on biodiversity offsets and to set out the areas where there is ongoing discussion and debate concerning offsets [http://www.icmm.com/newsdetail.php?rcd=67]. He said that, although the briefing paper was written for mining company managers, it would likely be of more general interest.

Joshua Bishop, Senior Advisor for Economics and Environment, IUCN introduced the concept of offsets and setting the context with examples from around the world of where offsets fit into existing regulatory frameworks. He explained the importance of the recommendation that offsets should only be considered at the end of the mitigation hierarchy where unavoidable residual impacts remain. The business and conservation cases for using offsets were laid out and some of the uncertainties, questions and risks surrounding offsets were raised.

Jonathan Ekstrom, from BirdLife International, provided an overview of the technical and socioeconomic issues associated with the design and implementation of biodiversity offsets and explored some of the challenges that arise including: building consensus among a broad stakeholder group; measuring biodiversity values (curren-

cies and equivalence); determining offset locations (near or far from the impacted site); deciding on the types of offsets to be implemented (conserving land, investing in capacity building, etc); long term sustainability and financing of offsets; and the need for pilot projects and experiments.

Kerry ten Kate closed the panel discussion by explaining how biodiversity offsets are linked to the CBD agenda. As the CBD engages more with the private sector, she explained how biodiversity offsets present a viable contribution towards achieving the 2010 target and a mechanism for sustainable development. She also reached out to people in the audience to share their ideas, experiences and knowledge on offsets and challenged everyone to work together to develop best practices and continue testing the methodologies of offsets in the field.

The discussion was then opened to the audience. The majority of participants expressed appreciation for the initiative taken and also raised some questions and concerns. For example:

- Would it be difficult for companies and conservation organizations to maintain their objectivity when designing and implementing biodiversity offsets?
- The mitigation hierarchy sounds simple in theory, but in practice it is not so straightforward.
- How can indirect and cumulative impacts of development activities best be dealt with?
- Is there a conflict of interest when communities would rather have development opportunities than invest in conservation?
- What does one do when there is a lack of baseline data?

It was agreed that a broad multi-stakeholder approach would be key in resolving many of these issues. In addition, there need to be governance systems that are autonomous and independent to ensure transparency in decision making processes. Composite biodiversity offsets, which comprise activities in more than one location, can provide both economic benefits in one place and conservation outcomes in another. This may help meet different priorities that exist within communities, and promote equitable outcomes.

For more information on this event, including the presentations, please visit:
http://www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram/ln_meetings.php\

Ecological Network of Central Asia-Integrated Method, Regional GAP Analysis, Commitments of the Countries to the PoW CBD

GEF-UNEP-WWF Project "ECONET CA", Five countries – one web of life.

Introductions:

WWF International – James Leape, Director General
UNEP – Nigel Sizer, Division of GEF Coordination

Presentations:

Olga Pereladova – WWF Central Asian Programme_- Results of the project: methodology, regional cooperation and political support. Commitment of the countries:

- Irina Bekmirzaeva, Republic of Uzbekistan
- Shirin Karryeva, Turkmenistan
- Neimatullo Safarov, Republic of Tajikistan
- Balgan Salykmambetova, Kyrgyz Republic
- Tatyana Bragina, representing Republic of Kazakhstan

Tatyana Bragina - Regional Econet project leader - Altyn Dala Conservation Programme and future of Econet implementation

Olga Pereladova - flagship species – the key for protected areas development – comparative analysis of WWF activities

Discussion and Comments
James Leape – Closing remarks

Summary

Ecological network of Central Asia - integration of biodiversity conservation in the contexts of socio-economical development- integrated method, regional GAP analysis, commitments of the countries to the PoW CBD

Central Asia is a region of four million square kilometers, uniting five independent countries (Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan) with unique biodiversity of great variety: various types of natural complexes - plain steppes, deserts, mountain forests, high mountain meadows and tundra cushion plant formations, with more than 7,000 species of higher plants, centres of origin of a great variety of wild ancestors of cultural plants, 900 species of vertebrates, etc. Hundred percent of the territory of 4 of these countries and half of the fifth one are qualified to be critical and vulnerable GL200 ecoregions of the

World, while the rest half of the fifth country – Kazakhstan – is to a great extent represented by virgin steppes which recently exist nowhere else in the world.

On their own initiative the countries of the region perform as a united body in a lot of initiatives on environment conservation and sustainable development by the way of establishment of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFSAS– chaired by the Presidents of the Countries in turn on a base of two year period rotation), Inter-regional Sustainable development Commission (ISDC – similarly chaired by the Ministers of Nature Conservation) and development of Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP- with the assistance and support of UNEP).

Using this opportunity, WWF in deep cooperation with variable stakeholders of the region has developed a scheme of Ecological network for the whole region. The main goal of the project is creation of a united ecological network of Central Asia (ECONET) and its integration in the regional and national plans of sustainable development; development and practical implementation of optimal mechanisms of transboundary cooperation and coordination for the purpose of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of nature resources. In accordance to ISDC decision ECONET is integrated in REAP as the major component, which ensures biodiversity conservation of the region. Besides key areas - which are important as core-zones, ECONET scheme includes a system of ecological corridors between the protected areas, together with the development of specific, ecologically-sustainable forms of land- and resource use in buffer zones. This approach allows integrating the goals of nature conservation into the context of socio-economical development of the region.

In order to identify such areas, a GAP analysis of representativeness of existing system of PA was conducted which is a direct contribution to the obligations of the range states in the frame of PoF on PA CBD. It was based on integrated analysis of biodiversity characteristics and socio-economical situation in the region. Methodological approaches towards the planning of ecological networks at the ecoregional level were developed to implement of the designed ECONET Concept. The approaches, typical for Western Europe and based on the inventory and protection of landscapes (the latter retaining their natural structure), are not applicable in Central Asia, where extensive areas still remain untouched or slightly affected by human impact. The use of remote data (satellite images) and relevant maps allows one to approach the entire study area from different points of view at the same time, which in turn enables the identification of protected natural areas as a single integral system.

	Existing system of PAs (% of the territory of the country)				Planned Econet - ecological network categories - (% of the territory of the country)				Planned Econet - PA categories (% of the territory of the country)				
	Zapovedniks	*Nat. parks*	*Other PAs*	*Total*	*Core areas*	*Ecological corridors*	*Buffer zones*	*Total*	*Zapovedniks*	*Nat. parks*	*Other PAs*	*Areas of sustainable development*	*Total*
Kazakhstan	0.39	0.55	6.3	7.2	9.9	18.9	11.5	40.3	11.3	11.9	7.5	9.6	40.3
Kyrgyzstan	1.8	1.5	1.8	5.1	16.0	29.5	37.8	83.3	14.1	11.6	4.6	52.8	83.3
Tajikistan	0.7	16.4	1.9	19.1	18.2	24.1	3.9	46.2	4.5	19.8	14.2	7.7	46.2
Turkmenistan	2.4	0	2.3	4.7	19.5	23.3	6.7	49.5	9.9	6.9	1.8	30.8	49.5
Uzbekistan	0.4	1.1	3.7	5.2	9.8	13.3	19.6	42.7	10.9	7.5	9.3	15.0	42.7
REGION					12.1	18.9	12.8	44.0					

The countries of the region proved their important commitment by adopting the developed ECONET scheme as the base for National plans of protected areas system development, as well as the base for land-use system development. Besides that, on the own initiative of the Governments of the countries new protected areas of different status are in the process of establishment (in accordance to identified priorities of ECONET). For complete implementation of EONET additional technical and financial assistance to the countries could be the issue of crucial importance. The full realization of the developed ECONET scheme would be a significant contribution by all countries in the region toward realizing the recommendations of the seventh meeting of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and obligation of the countries on the PoW on PAs CBD.

Participants of the Econet Central Asia side event, representing all five countries of the region
Photo courtesy of: GEF-UNEP-WWF Project "ECONET CA", Five countries – one web of life

Brazilian-German Cooperation on Biodiversity Research in the Brazilian Mata Atlântica

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

The bilateral programme “Science and Technology for the Mata Atlântica” promotes studies to fill gaps in biodiversity knowledge and to develop applicable concepts for conservation and sustainable use of the Mata Atlântica biome. The research is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). (seems to me a bit out of place). Four projects are presently funded in the states of Pernambuco, São Paulo, Paraná andSanta Catarina. The project SOLOBIOMA, which is located close to Curitiba, the city hosting the COP 8, was presented as a case study of the programme.

There is an urgent need to understand the ecosystem quality of secondary forests in the Mata Atlântica and to recognize their potential to conserve the biodiversity. The project SOLOBIOMA tackles this task concentrating on the system-relevant soil organisms. It aims to develop an easy-to-use expert system which allows to classify sites with regard to their inherent diversity and the maintenance of “ecosystem services” such as decomposition and nutrient cycling – preconditions for the natural succession as well as for sustainable use.

The event was opened by the political and financial representatives of the bilateral partnership in research, such as the Ambassador of Germany in Brazil, Mr Prot von Kunow, Ms Ione Egler from the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr Achim Zickler from the German Ministry of Education and Research and Ms Ana Lúcia Stival da Silva from the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development.

Thematic introduction and description of questions and approaches was done by the coordinators of the SOLOBIOMA project from the different participating institutions – the German State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe, the Brazilian Federal University of Paraná, a German private organization (ECT) and a Brazilian NGO (SPVS), before the discussion was opened.

The event was attended by a significant public, , due to prior dissemination and public relation activities from BMBF and other organisations involved. Besides the interested general public the side event was attended by representatives of important institutions for SOLOBIOMA´s integrated and applied interests in Brazil. IBAMA sent several officers, CNPq had a major personal presence, German KfW and GTZ were interested in project details as well as several representatives of the official German COP delegation (by BMU), Brazilian universities and non-governmental organizations.

The event lasted more than 90 minutes and lots of questions were answered after the presentation block. It was successfully shown and highlighted that there is a real cooperation between several levels of organized society, scientific institutions and internationally active individuals and the civil societies of both countries. The SOLOBIOMA related activities reflect in international discussion processes and contribute decisively to progress in ecological and applied studies being treated in the UN-context of biodiversity and sustainable development.

Speakers of this side event. Clovis Borges of the Brazilian NGO SPVS and Hubert Höfer (German scientist) Photo courtesy of: Ludger Scheuermann

More information:
http://www.biolog-online.info
http://www.smnk.de/solobioma.html

Contacts:
Brazil: mvelo@cnpq.br
www.cnpq.br

Germany: umweltsystemforschung@dlr.de
http://pt-uf.pt-dlr.de/englisch/9_ENG_HTML.htm

BIOTA Africa: Research for Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Africa

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

The side event was introduced by Achim Zickler from the Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, and Sem Shikongo from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia, giving background information on the project:

Biota Africa started in 2000 as a co-operative and interdisciplinary research project. Initiated and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the project has developed into a unique network of African and German scientists aiming at a holistic contribution towards sustainable use and conservation of African Biodiversity. Today the BIOTA network consists of eight African partner countries, divided in three regional groups: Benin, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa, Kenya and Uganda in East Africa, and Namibia and South Africa in Southern Africa and additional activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In total more than 60 African institutions and cooperation partners participate. The main objective is to assess and to monitor the biodiversity status and its changes along climatic and anthropogenic gradients in Africa. This data collection serves for developing management recommendations and approaches for sustainable use of the biodiversity of these regions. From the African point of view the BIOTA project is outstanding, as it is carried out in equal partnership. Objectives and activities are identified and discussed between all African and German partners and respond to the needs of the African countries.

Our African counterparts from Cote d`Ivoire, Souleymane Konate (plus Brice Sinsin from Benin) Photo courtesy of: Ludger Scheuermann

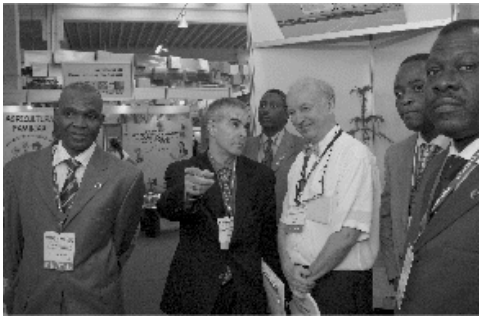
The four speakers of the side event illustrated some of the ongoing activities. Karen Hahn-Hadjali, University of Frankfurt, presented the BIOTA research approach, designed using German and African expertise. Discussing the use of biological observatories in an interdisciplinary comparison of land use practices in a standardized research area, she emphasized that BIOTA aims to understand drivers for change; assess the value of natural resources for local communities, and to develop appropriate action plans. She stressed that it is vital for application by local communities to develop approaches that have short term benefits when identifying strategies for restoration. She gave Burkina Faso as an example of where the traditional planting hole method and deep ploughing approaches had both been used successfully in combination with planting of local species of high use value.

Konaté Souleymane, University of Abobo-Adjame, Côte d'Ivoire, introduced the Zaï system of soil restoration using termites, noting that these are important for ecosystem functioning, soil processes and fertility, and can contribute to carbon sequestration. He explained that agricultural Zaï involves the placement of organic matter in a hole to attract termites and fertilize the soil. He highlighted how this can improve agricultural efficiency, as the termites increase soil porosity and clay content.

Wolfgang Küper, University of Bonn, discussed African biodiversity conservation strategies, noting that given species richness patterns, the present extent of protected areas (PAs) could be better allocated to protect biodiversity, but that this is constrained by human settlement patterns. He demonstrated how the coverage and management of protected areas could be improved to address biodiversity hotspots, while addressing local socio-economic concerns. He suggested the need for a two-track approach, taking into consideration the irreplaceability of species and the need for sustainable management. Küper then presented BIOTA Africa's strategy, which stresses the consideration of land use, climate change, community involvement, information dissemination, and transboundary cooperation.

Brice Sinsin, IUCN/WCPA, noted that existing coverage of PAs in West Africa is insufficient to protect biodiversity against rising population levels, and that management could be improved by filling knowledge gaps, involving locals, and improving the economic value of PAs. He highlighted that BIOTA contributes to addressing these needs through an integrative, multidisciplinary approach, establishing a biophysical baseline for biodiversity monitoring, capacity building, and addressing socio-economic aspects through local cooperation.
Discussion: Participants discussed the value of considering additional categories of PAs, and the sampling methods that BIOTA uses in its research.

The side event underlined the importance of applied research as a crucial tool for reaching the CBD goals.



Ahmed Djoghlaf visiting our BIOTA exhibition of the German Ministry for Education and Research plus CBD-team and Achim Zickler from ther German Ministry.
Photo courtesy of: Ludger Scheuermann

More information:
http://www.biota-africa.org
http://www.leabenin-fsauac.net
http://www.biolog-online.info

Contacts:
BIOTA Africa: contact@biota-africa.org
Karen Hahn-Hadjali: hahn-hadjali@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Konate Souleymane:
konate@biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de
Wolfgang Küper: wk@uni-bonn.de
Brice Sinsin: bsinsin@bj.refer.org
Funding institution PT-DLR of BMBF umweltsystemforschung@dlr.de

Amazon Basin Biodiversity Information Facility (ABBIF) for European and North American Natural History Institutions

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

A feasibility study for the Amazon Basing Biodiversity Information Facility (ABBIF) has been conducted by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) <http://www.gbif.org> and CRIA (The Reference Center on Environmental Information) <http://www.cria.org.br> to mobilize biodiversity data and make it freely and openly available via the internet.

The objective of ABBIF is to increase the value, visibility and usage of data on the Amazon basin through dynamic networking and thereby contribute to better conservation practices and sustainable use of the region's natural resources.

The feasibility study aimed at:
1) identifying potential biodiversity data providers and/or custodians,
2) studying different IT architectures,
3) evaluate existing and needed infra-structure

One of the goals of the ABBIF feasibility study was to propose a longer-term project aiming at the development of a decentralized, coordinated data infrastructure for the Amazon region associated to a modeling framework, with a broad and inclusive participation of researchers and institutions in the Amazon and forging collaborations and synergies with Natural History institutions holding Amazonian collections from around the world.
We have found that both researchers in the Amazon region and the international community are very keen and supportive of ABBIF and have expressed their keen interest in supporting fundraising efforts for the full proposal. This feasibility study was supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The following reports and documents (including results on a study on data repatriation to countries or origin, digitization of natural history collections and a proposed architecture) are available on line:

- Information about the project <http://www.cria.org.br/abbif/about>
- First preliminary report, June, 2005 <http://www.cria.org.br/abbif/docs/report1.doc>
- Definition of an ABBIF strategy:
- Proposal for digitization of biological collections <http://www.cria.org.br/abbif/docs/digit.doc>
- Proposed Architecture <http://www.cria.org.br/abbif/docs/Architecture.doc> (version March 14, 2006)
- Data Sharing and Repatriation of Biodiversity Information: Setting-up a Collaboration Program with Collections from Non Amazonian Countries <http://www.cria.org.br/abbif/docs/repatriation.doc> (version March 14, 2006)

The briefing session for Natural History institutions from Europe and North America was convened on 24 March, 2006 and more than 27 researchers from Europe, North America and representatives from the Amazonian countries attended and expressed their interest and support to this scientific initiative.

A previous workshop for representatives of the scientific community from the Amazon was held in Campinas, Brazil on March 16-17, 2006. More information about this workshop is available at:
Workshop Amazon Basin Information Facility(ABBIF) <http://www.cria.org.br/eventos/abbif>

Web site for the ABBIF project:
www.cria.org.br/abbif

For further information you may wish to contact:
Beatriz Torres (btorres@gbif.org <mailto:btorres@gbif.org>) ,
Vanderlei Canhos (vcnahos@cria.org.br <mailto:vcnahos@cria.org.br>)
Dora Canhos (dora@cria.org.br <mailto:dora@cria.org.br>)

Whole Forest Observatories – An International Network for Monitoring Canopy Biodiversity and Global Climate Change

Presented by Global Canopy Programme (GCP)
By Renata Rubian, IISD Reporting Services

Richard Barlow, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that sustainable development is a strategic priority for the UK Government, stressing support for the GCP.

Antonio Nobre, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Brazil, depicted the Amazon as a biotic regulator and described its biological and chemical functions and the relationship between biosphere and atmosphere in regulating water, sequestering carbon and providing other ecosystem services for humanity. Nobre detailed how the Amazon's regulation of the climate is dependant upon its "functional" biodiversity. He said the biodiversity-climate connection is a "brave new world", and that the rainforest functions as an "open liver", cleaning the air. Nobre added that rainfall is not the only regulating function of the rainforest, it can also drag inland moisture from the surrounding ocean, keep atmosphere clean from excess dust that could upset the cloud and rain formation dynamics, and return precipitated water into the atmosphere.

Andrew Mitchell, GCP, introduced the proposed Whole Forest Observatory (WFO) Network, expected to run from 2007/8 to 2012, which will monitor how forest canopies interact with the atmosphere, affecting climate change, and how "biodiversity meets the atmosphere." Mitchell recalled the proposal made by Papua New Guinea at the UNFCCC Kyoto COP/MOP-1, suggesting that countries should be compensated for reducing deforestation rates, emphasizing that the GCP is designed to demonstrate how "biosphere-atmosphere hot-spots," a new concept he proposes, provide ecosystem services of high economic value. He stressed that the WFO is essentially about "Life, Atmosphere and People," indicating the crisis of values between humanity and biodiversity and our responsibility to come up with creative mechanisms to stop biodiversity loss. He indicated that Brazil, Malaysia, India, Ghana, Madagascar and China are partner countries for the WFO, with the UK Government fostering these partnerships.

Hylton Philipson, GCP, stressed that the only way to stop deforestation is to put a cash value on ecosystem services provided by tropical forests, transferring benefits back to local governments and communities. He suggested some alternatives to fund conservation: development of carbon markets to avoid deforestation and land conversion into crops and pastures; involvement of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose income has doubled in the past two years, and insurance companies, who have lost billions with from the impact of natural disasters due to climate change; air travel; and soya producers, who need rainfall for their plantations.

Nigel Sizer, UNEP/GEF, indicated that the GCP project is a high priority for the GEF portfolio.

For more information on the Global Canopy Programme please visit: www.globalcanopy.org

Photo courtesy of: GCP COP 8 Side event 2 - “From left to right: Andrew Mitchell, GCP, Sakias Tameo, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, Richard Barlow, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rogerio Barbosa, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Katherine Secoy, GCP, Camille Rebelo, Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, Antonio Nobre, INPA, Brazil, and Hylton Philipson, GCP”

GEF Resource Allocation

Global Environment Facility

Establishing a resource allocation system at the GEF, based on global environmental priorities and country-level performance was one of the policy recommendations from the negotiations associated with the third replenishment of the GEF. The recommendation was endorsed by the GEF Council at its meeting held in conjunction with the October 2002 Second GEF Assembly in Beijing.

The Resource Allocation Framework was developed during 2003 -2005. In 2003, the Council directed the CEO to establish a Technical Committee to provide guidance on the subject to the Council. The Committee, after examining the set-up of resource allocation frameworks at other multilateral institution, and after examining the feasibility of a system for the GEF, submitted its report to the Council in November 2003. Among other features, the Committee recommended that an allocation system be initially established for the GEF focal areas of biodiversity and climate change.

During 2004 and 2005, the Council further discussed the development of the system, and approved the GEF Resource Allocation Framework at a special meeting of the Council convened in September 2005.

The RAF allocates resources to countries based on each country's potential to generate global environmental benefits and its capacity, policies and practices to successfully implement GEF projects. As such, the RAF builds on GEF's existing country-driven approach and partnerships with Implementing and Executing Agencies, and provides countries with increased predictability in the allocation of GEF funds.

Implementation will begin in July 2006 and will apply to resources for financing biodiversity and climate change projects.

The indicative allocations for each country during a replenishment period will be publicly disclosed at the outset of each replenishment period. These allocations will be adjusted every two years to reflect changes in each county's capacity and potential to deliver global environmental benefits. All eligible countries will have access to resources for biodiversity and climate change to support enabling activities and projects in these areas. Each country will work with the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies to develop project proposals to be financed from its indicative allocation. Country allocations will be published once funding for the next four year phase of the GEF has been finalized.

The RAF is intended to strengthen each country's ability to ensure that GEF financing is based on country priorities and reflects guidance from the international environmental conventions for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism. The Council has expanded support for GEF national focal point development and national capacity development so that countries can better address global environmental challenges and strengthen their capacities to work through the RAF approach. Two new initiatives – Country Support Program (CSP) for Focal Points and the GEF National Dialogue Initiative – will provide opportunities for stakeholders to

seek clarification and provide feedback about the RAF.

The new system is similar to resource allocation systems in place at other international financial institutions, such as the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

In addition to their allocations, countries can receive GEF financing for projects in the other focal areas (international waters, land degradation, ozone layer depletion, and persistent organic pollutants), cross-cutting capacity building projects and the Small Grants Programme, which finances smaller projects that encourage wider participation by civil society, and through regional and global projects.

An independent review of the operational experience with the RAF will be undertaken by the GEF Evaluation Office after two years of implementation.

A variety of channels, including country consultations, fact sheets and FAQs, will be used to inform stakeholders at the country, regional and global levels about the RAF starting in February 2006.

For more information, please visit thegef.org/raf.html.

Invasive Alien Species in South America: Tools and Information to Address National and Regional Threats

Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)/ The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Silvia Ziller, Coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's South American Invasive Species Programme, presented an introductory overview of invasive alien species (IAS) in South America, using a variety of case studies to demonstrate the environmental, economic and health impacts of IAS. She highlighted the need to carry out national surveys of IAS on the continent and build capacity to deal with this threat, such as developing IAS prevention and risk assessment systems and appropriate legal frameworks. She concluded by offering South American countries assistance with training and capacity building, and in using tools such as the 13N Invasives Information Network developed by IABIN. She encouraged countries to contribute data in order to populate the database with IAS records for the entire continent.

Stas Burgiel, Senior International Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Initiative, and Silvia Ziller, Coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's South American Invasive Species Programme.
Photo courtesy of: Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)/ The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Stas Burgiel of The Nature Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Initiative gave a presentation summarising the global policy context relating to IAS. He highlighted the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, and gave examples of unregulated pathways for IAS introductions. He noted that there is a need for an overarching framework identifying the building blocks for national implementation, such as regulatory structures, import requirements, risk assessment procedures, rapid response activities and stakeholder engagements. He concluded by reviewing a number of existing initiatives, such as South Africa's Working for Water programme, Australia's Weed Risk Assessment, and New Zealand's BioSecurity system, as well as the Pacific Islands Learning Network.

Dennis Rangi, Chairman of the Global Invasive Species Programme, gave a presentation on the role of GISP, highlighting its capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. He noted that GISP has been identified by the CBD COP as lead agency in a number of activities, including the development of a global joint work programme on invasive species prevention and management, the realization of Target 10 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and the identification of invasive species indicators for the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He concluded by inviting countries to join the Ten Nations Initiative, which aims to fast-track implementation of the GISP Global Strategy.

Braulio Dias, of Brazil's Ministry of Environment, then announced Brazil's support for GISP through the Ten Nations Initiative, noting that invasive alien species are considered a high priority by the Brazilian government.

Dennis Rangi, chairman of the Gobal Invasive Species Programme. Photo courtesy of: Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)/ The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

A number of new publications on invasive species were launched at the side event, including two World Bank publications 'The Aid Trade' and 'National & Regional Legislation', and the GISP publication 'South America Invaded – the growing danger of invasive species', which includes species profiles of some key invaders in South America.

For further information, please contact:
Dr. Lynn Jackson
Director: GISP Secretariat
Jackson@sanbi.org
www.gisp.org

Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

Partnerships in Building Capacity to Counter the Threat of Invasive Species

The side event was opened by Ryan Hill of the CBD Secretariat, noting that it served as the launch of the GEF-UNEP-GISP project 'Building Capacity and Raising Awareness in Invasive Species Prevention and Management'. He highlighted the importance of the project in facilitating the implementation of CBD Article 8 (h) on alien species.

GISP Director Lynn Jackson then gave an introductory presentation, in which she reviewed the impact of invasive alien species (IAS) and the role of the Global Invasive Species Programme. She noted that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of IAS, due to their dependence on primary production (agriculture, forestry and fishing) and their lack of capacity in IAS management. A series of regional workshops convened by GISP between 2001 and 2004 had identified the need for national capacity building in order to support regional initiatives, and the current project had been developed in response to this need. Its main objective is to assist parties in developing and implementing national and regional strategies and action plans on IAS by building institutional, legal and technical capacity. Dr Jackson reviewed the project's proposed activities, and noted that it would be piloted in five countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Senegal, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Miguel Stutzin of Chile's Ministry of Agriculture noted that many IAS had been intentionally introduced to Chile for hunting, fishing, agricultural use, and as pets or ornamental species. Little is known about their impacts, however, and there are limited resources for research activities, monitoring plans, or control, eradication and preventive measures. There is a need to improve national legislation and regulation relating to IAS, and to strengthen coordination and cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international community in order to prevent further IAS introductions. Invasive species are of particular concern in the Juan Fernandez Archipelago and on Tierra del Fuego island. Wild boar, the African clawed frog, North American beaver and mink, and European rabbit and hare are among the most problematic IAS in Chile.

Ruben Munoz Robles of the Ministry of Environment and Energy in Costa Rica noted that a recent workshop had identified 40 invasive plant species requiring management action in Costa Rica. Species with significant impact include water lettuce Pistia striatoides, giant mimosa Mimosa pigra and kudzu Puerania phaseloides. Also of great concern is the fungal pathogen Moniliophthora roreri, which causes frosty pod rot in cocoa, resulting in crop losses of up to 80%. The biodiversity of Coco's Island – a World Heritage Site off the west coast of Costa Rica - is also threatened by invasive rats, pigs, goats, cats and deer. Although there is some management of invasive species in Costa Rica, there is a lack of coordination at the governmental level, gaps in legislation, and little detailed information on the status of invasive species. It is anticipated that these issues will be addressed during the course of the project.

Moustapha Mbay, of Senegal's Department of National Parks, reported that priority invasives in Senegal are primarily water weeds and agricultural pests. They include giant salvinia Salvinia molesta, water lettuce

Pistia stratiotes, the bulrush or cattail Typha australis, the cassava mealy bug Phenacoccus manihoti and the spiraling white fly Aleurodiscus dispersus. Salvinia first appeared in the Senegal River Delta in 1999, and is now a threat to the riverine ecosystem and to the Djoudj National Bird Park - a World Heritage Site. It also has economic impacts as it blocks irrigation pumps, inhibits boat traffic and prevents cattle from reaching the water. The government, in collaboration with UNESCO and Ramsar, has introduced mechanical and biological controls, and the problem has now been largely brought under control. However, there is little cross-sectoral cooperation in Senegal around invasive species, and a lack of awareness about their importance.

Left to right: Director of the Global Invasive Species Programme Lynn Jackson, with Miguel Stutzin (Chile), Moustapha Mbay (Senegal), Ryan Hill (CBD), Le Thanh Binh (Vietnam) and Ruben Munoz Robles (Costa Rica). Photo courtesy of: Partnerships in Building Capacity to Counter the Threat of Invasive Species

Dr Jackson delivered the presentation on invasive species in Tanzania on behalf of Rawson Yonazi, from Tanzania's Division of Environment. Priority invasive species in Tanzania include lantana Lantana camara, water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes, cassava mealy bug Phenacoccus manihoti, the fungal pathogen that causes coffee berry disease Colletotrichum coffeanum and the Indian house crow Corvus splendens. Since 1995, biological control has helped control water hyacinth on Lake Victoria. A new priority is the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, where a programme has been initiated to eradicate some 40 invasive plant species identified in this World Heritage Site. However, Tanzania's regulatory framework does not facilitate integrated, cross-sectoral IAS management, and much of the legislation is sectoral and outdated.

Le Thanh Binh, of Vietnam's Environmental Protection Agency, reported that Vietnam has been facing increasing problems over the last decade from invasive alien species such as golden apple snail Pomacea sp., mimosa Mimosa sp., water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes and nutria Myocastor coypus. Initially promoted as a food source, the golden apple snail spread from culture facilities and by April 1995 had infested more than 15 000 hectares of rice fields. The cost of the subsequent eradication campaign amounted to tens of billions of Vietnamese Dong, with the FAO providing technical assistance and US$ 250 000 in emergency aid. In contrast to this socio-economic issue, Mimosa pigra has had a major impact on the biodiversity of national parks, causing changes in native vegetation and ecosystem structure. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MONRE) is responsible for coordinating issues relating to biodiversity conservation, including the development of policies on prevention and control of invasive alien species, while the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Fisheries also play a role. MONRE's Environmental Protection Agency has already held a national IAS workshop, produced various publications on IAS, and carried out an assessment of the status of aquatic alien species in Vietnam. The country has also produced a Draft Biodiversity Action Plan

that lists a number of priority actions on invasive species, and has various laws, ordinances and decrees that provide for some regulation of invasive species. However, key constraints are the lack of a single state agency with responsibility for alien invasive species, the absence of specific guidelines and scientific assessments prior to the introduction of new species, and limited general awareness on invasive alien species.

Dr Jackson concluded by noting that the anticipated outcomes of the project would be increased awareness of IAS in the pilot countries and surrounding regions, improved management of existing invasive species, a reduction in the number of new introductions, and fulfilment of CBD obligations on IAS. She invited all present at the side event to consider becoming a partner in this important initiative.

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Lynn Jackson
Director: GISP Secretariat
Jackson@sanbi.org
www.gisp.org

The Role of Private Lands Conservation in Implementing the CBD: A Regional Vision for Latin America

The Nature Conservancy

It discussed experiences that focused on private lands conservation as an effective tool for biodiversity conservation in Latin America.

Presenters highlighted how these initiatives have supported the development of a regional vision for a landscape-scale conservation, which includes strengthening public-private partnership and the use of economic and legal mechanisms to increase private protected areas.

The presentations discussed issues like “Private and Public Sector Cooperation for Land Conservation” , “What is Private/Communal Lands Conservation?” as a process for learning and working with the identification and the implementation of alternatives for sustainable use and conservation of private/communal lands, “Forest Reserve Quota Regulation” dealing with the possibility to compensate legal reserve for other areas with equal ecological importance for those who do not have the minimum legal reserve area required by law, and “The Role of Private Lands Conservation for the Biodiversity”, giving prominence to the RPPN, a Brazilian tool to protect private lands, where the landowner transform his property in a protected area, recognized by the government. The RPPN increases the number and area of legal protected areas, protects endangered species, connects natural landscape and contributes with research that will provide better understanding about the environment. Today, there are 718 RPPNs in Brazil, protecting 530 thousand hectares.

The conclusions of this side event are:

- The conservation of private and communal lands contribute for the improvement of the quality of life for the local rural population;
- The private lands conservation activities strengthen and contribute with the consolidation of the protected areas national systems;
- The government’s commitment in creating protected areas and the effective management of such areas are important;
- There is great opportunity to improve the private lands conservation practices and the effective protection of private and communal reserves with the exchange of experiences between several Latin American countries;
- This exchange is a key to a rural and regional vision for biodiversity conservation development;
- The implementation and validation of legal and economic tools that encourage conservation on private and communal lands are fundamental;
- The commitment of the CDB parties should include this challenge.

Gola Forest Conservation Concession Project

Government of Sierra Leone, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The Government of Sierra Leone, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (The RSPB) presented the Gola Forest Conservation Concession Project. The project will protect the Gola Forest, the largest and most diverse remaining forest in Sierra Leone. It forms part of the remaining Upper Guinea Forest, the lowland rainforest that once covered large areas of coastal West Africa. The Gola Forest is home to 14 globally threatened bird species, forest elephants, western chimpanzees and pygmy hippos.

Daniel Siaffa, Director, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (Chair),Chris Squire, Executive Commissioner, National Commission for Environment and Forestry, Bartholomew Kamara, Director of Forest, Minstry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
Photo courtesy of: The Nature Conservancy

The partners are working closely with the seven chiefdoms in the area, with a population of more than 100,000. Until recently, the Gola Forest was designated for commercial logging. CSSL and the RSPB will sign an agreement with the government to protect the forest and provide an income stream to the government and the local communities, in lieu of the income they would have received from logging. Reversing environmental degradation and natural resource depletion is critical to the country's post-civil war efforts to combat widespread poverty. The partners are seeking further grants to establish an endowment fund, which has a target of US$ 10 million. The project is already supported by the Global Conservation Fund of Conservation International and the Darwin Initiative of the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The event was chaired by Daniel Siaffa, Director of CSSL, with presentations by Alistair Gammell, Director, International Operations, the RSPB, and Chris Squire, Executive Commissioner, National Commission for Environment and Forestry, Sierra Leone, and additional remarks by Mr Bartholomew Kamara, Director of Forest, Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone. The presentations, and subsequent questions and discussion with the audience highlighted the project's role in implementation of the CBD's programme of work on protected areas and in demonstrating how governments and NGOs can work together. The Government, CSSL and the RSPB have been working together since 1990. The Gola Forest was identified as a priority in the 2002 NBSAP. In the future, the forest will be declared a national park.

Aboriginal Languages and Cultures in Canada

Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage

On the evening of Monday, March 20, 2006 at a side event to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Eighth Conference of Parties, the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage presented on First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages in Canada. The use of Indigenous languages as a possible proxy indicator for traditional knowledge is being explored within the CBD.

In Canada, about one million people identify as either First Nations, Inuit or Métis representing about 3% of the population. Over 50% of Aboriginal peoples in Canada live in urban centers, and one third of the population is under 14 years of age.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples have a unique relationship with the Government of Canada, as the rights of Aboriginal peoples are embedded in the Canadian Constitution. Defining this relationship is a major area of focus for Aboriginal leaders and the Canadian Government.

Of the one million Aboriginal peoples in Canada, only about 200,000 claim an Indigenous mother tongue. With a 60-80% fluency rate across all age groups, Cree, Ojibwe and Inuktitut are the only Indigenous languages in Canada that are considered viable over the long-term. There are 20 Indigenous languages in Canada that are considered endangered where only the older populations are fluent with few or no speakers in younger age groups. Another 27 Indigenous languages in Canada are in a critical state with few speakers remaining in the community. Consistent with global trends, Indigenous languages in Canada are under threat.

Aboriginal languages are the most appropriate and effective vehicles for transmitting Indigenous knowledge as language embodies frameworks for recognition and understanding of relationships, protocols and processes. Language is the cornerstone of identity, the repository of traditional belief systems, ceremonies and protocols. Research also shows a connection between strong language and culture, and an individual's sense of self-worth and self-respect. Health Canada's Report of the Advisory Group on Suicide Prevention noted that, "the lack of a stable sense of identity in relation to other groups is a key risk factor for suicidal behaviour among First Nations and other Aboriginal youth." It is clear that there is a strong correlation between cultural continuity / language revitalization and other factors that contribute to quality of life.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting the preservation, revitalization and promotion of First Nation, Inuit and Métis languages and recognizes their importance as unique to Canadian identity. The Aboriginal Languages Initiative established in 1998, supports community-based initiatives to preserve, revitalize and promote of First Nation, Inuit and Métis languages.

In July 2005, a Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Cultures released a foundational report for a comprehensive strategy to revitalize First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages. This report is the most comprehensive

and broad-ranging report ever completed on Aboriginal languages in Canada. It confirms that most of the 50+ First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages spoken in Canada are threatened. The report also eloquently describes the importance of languages to the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and to all Canadians. Further information on the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Cultures can be found at http://www.aboriginallanguagestaskforce.ca.

Since the release of the Task Force report, the Department of Canadian Heritage has been engaged in meetings with National Aboriginal Organizations and other groups in order to develop options for long-term support of First Nation, Inuit and Métis languages.

For further information, please contact:

Elizabeth Casuga
Director, Outreach and Engagement
Department of Canadian Heritage
Government of Canada

Heart of Borneo Side Event

Heart of Borneo WWF-Indonesia

Photo courtesy of: Heart of Borneo WWF-Indonesia

On Monday 27 March, the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam launched and committed to fully support the "Heart of Borneo" conservation initiative at a high profile side event hosted by Indonesia. Over 150 representatives of government, Aid agencies, conservation bodies and NGO's attended the event. The "Heart of Borneo" aims to preserve one of the most important centres of biological diversity in the world, including equatorial forests and numerous wildlife species.

Mr. Arman Mallolongan, Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation at the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry said: "It is because of the critical importance of Borneo's forests for the prosperity of the entire island that the three countries have forged a vision to ensure effective management and conservation of protected areas, productive forests and to promote other forms of sustainable land use. Using such an approach, Borneo's tropical forests will be managed in a sustainable manner."

Dato' Suboh Mohd Yassin, Secretary General of the Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment said: "This is an historic event, as the Heart of Borneo initiative will pave the way towards expanding conservation of biodiversity, which fully supports the goal of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This initiative also represents a very significant milestone for transboundary cooperation and will enhance existing collaboration between our respective countries to protect vital natural resources and reduce poverty."

The event was extremely well attended (over 150 participants) by delegates and high-ranked officials, including the Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity from the UK and Secretary of State for Environment from Netherland, representatives from the World Bank, USAID, UN and UNEP, delegates from Sweden, Japan, Germany, France, Finland, the UK, US and the Netherlands. In front of a packed room, the two ministers praised the three governments for the launch of the Heart of Borneo initiative and expressed their full support to the scheme. Similarly, James Leape, Director General of WWF International reiterated WWF's commitment to assist Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia with technical and financial support, so that their conservation vision becomes a reality. Additional enthusiastic comments came from representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the German Government, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

While Indonesia and Malaysia did not commit to any date for the official signing of a tri-country Declaration for the Heart of Borneo, the Government of Brunei's representative, Mr. Mahmud Yussof said: "We look forward to working together with the Bornean Governments to finalize the tri-government cooperation scheme for the Heart of Borneo at an appropriate international forum, such as the fourteenth session of the UN Commission

on Sustainable Development in May."

Photo courtesy of: Heart of Borneo WWF-Indonesia

Statements were made by the following governments/institutions:
Mr. James Knight, Minister, Rural Affairs, Landscape, and Biodiversity, UK Government.
The UK government recognises the importance of large-scale ecosystem based approaches to conservation and commends the Bornean governments for this programme;
The key to ensuring the success of this large-scale project is to achieve improved and sustainable livelihoods for all the local communities involved;

- The Heart of Borneo represents an exciting opportunity for business and industry to become engaged and support the environment. Businesses, through their procurement of timber and wood products from sustainable sources, such as from the Heart of Borneo, can financially support conservation and development programmes.

Mr. Pieter van Geel, Secretary of State of Environment, Netherlands

- The Dutch government supports this kind of initiative and wishes to congratulate the three governments for the launch of the Heart of Borneo;

Jo Mulongoy, Programme Director, CBD Secretariat

- Congratulates the three governments on taking this initiative;
- the solutions proposed for the Heart of Borneo will be a lesson to all countries;
- the CBD recognises this as an important contribution to the 2010 targets.

Dr Manfred Niekisch, German Government and IUCN

- Representing both organizations announce support for this initiative;
- German government has been a long time supporter of the government of Malaysia through forest resource management and Indonesia through forest fire prevention in Kalimantan;
- this is an important first step and hope this can be a successful initiative.

Frank Jacobs, The European Union

- The EU sees this initiative as an extremely important contribution to protection of one of the largest areas of biodiversity in the world;
- recognize the balance between economic pressures and maintaining ecological diversity on Borneo;
- would like to congratulate the three countries for this initiative and announce that the European Union is supporting this initiative.

Dr Nigel Sizer, UNEP

- congratulates the three governments on this initiative;
- questioned whether this initiative would control unsustainable logging practices.

Jonas Sjostedt, Swedish Member of Parliament, European Parliament

- the European Parliament supports this initiative;

Dr. James Leape, Director General, WWF-International

- Congratulates the three governments on leadership and coordinated approach to the Heart of Borneo.
- WWF's offers to support both technical and financial in the long-term and is considered a top priority internationally;
- applauded the recent moves by the three governments to improve protection status of forests in Sabah, Brunei and Central Kalimantan;
- Encouraged Bornean Governments to maintain momentum and finalise tri-country agreement in time for the CSD May 06;

Additional speakers who raised their hands but the Chair closed the list:

- Chip Barber, US AID (intervention forward direct to ID government)
- Dr. John Robinson, President, Wildlife Conservation Society
- Rili Djohani, Indonesia Country Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Dr. Manuel Filho, ITTO

Protection of Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage and 'Reverse' ABS

IIED, ANDES and FIELD

Chair: Maria Berlekom, SwedBio

Protection of Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage, Krystyna Swiderska (IIED): Discussions on the protection of traditional knowledge have often emphasised the need for consistency with existing IP standards, rather than recognising the need to respond to a very different context. IIED and partners are working with indigenous communities in Peru, Panama, Kenya, India and China to assist the protection of their rights over traditional knowledge in accordance with their customary laws and practices. We are a mix of indigenous and non-indigenous researchers, but we are using an indigenous vision to guide the research with Kuna, Embera, Wounaan, Quechua, Mijikenda, Maasai, Yanadi, Lepchas, Adhivasi and other communities. We aim to assist communities to develop local responses based on their customary laws, and to improve understanding amongst policy makers of how customary laws should be respected. We are applying the Code of Ethics of the International Society of Ethnobiology, which identifies 15 principles, including: Prior & Inalienable Rights over land, Natural Resources and TK; Self-determination; Active Participation; Full Disclosure; PIC and the right to Veto any study or activity; Confidentiality; Respect (eg. of spiritual values); Compensation and Equity; and Restitution (see www.iied.org).

The concept of 'Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage' is our guiding framework. Having emerged from a community context, this concept reflects the holistic worldview of indigenous communities. It is defined as the: "Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities which are collectively held and inextricably linked to traditional resources and territories; including the diversity of genes, varieties, species and ecosystems; cultural and spiritual values; and customary laws shaped within the socio-ecological context of communities". This concept recognizes that the maintenance and preservation of TK relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is critically dependent on the continued stewardship by indigenous and local communities of their traditional territories and bio-genetic resources. Hence, effective protection of TK also requires protection of rights of communities to their lands, biodiversity, cultural and spiritual values and customary laws, including restitution of rights over heritage taken away. As the late Darrell Posey explained: "Protection of traditional knowledge will only be adequate if it is conserved, maintained and enhanced in situ, as part of the lands, territories and cultures of indigenous and local communities" (Traditional Resource Rights, 1996).

'Reverse' ABS and Bio-Cultural Heritage Registers, Alejandro Argumedo (ANDES): The concept of Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage originally emerged from the work of ANDES, an indigenous-managed NGO in the Peruvian Andes, following years of work with Quechua communities in a centre of origin of potato diversity. Here, potato diversity and mountain landscapes are central to nutrition, health and cultural and spiritual life. ANDES has established a 'Potato Park' as an Indigenous Bio-Cultural Heritage Area based on collective land tenure of six communities and managed by customary laws and institutions. This effectively provides a sui generis system for positive protection of TK. It also facilitated the first ever agreement between indigenous communities and a gene bank, the International Potato Centre, for Repatriation and Reciprocal exchange of traditional potato varieties. In this way, communities will gain access to varieties they have lost, rather than just providing others with access to their resources, thus reversing the

ABS paradigm. An Inter-Community Agreement for Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from the agreement with CIP is being developed, based on customary laws and practices, to ensure the benefits flowing back to the community strengthen CBCH.

Andes is also developing a Register of Collective Biocultural Heritage aimed at protecting and promoting Quechua indigenous knowledge systems. This local register is an Internet-based multimedia database, developed by combining open source software (developed at Andes using XLM language MPEG protocols, which allows for customary laws to be integrated in the software structure), and traditional Andean Khipu information management system.

Taking a holistic and 'Reverse' ABS approach in the International Regime, Linda Siegele (FIELD): The terms of reference for an international regime on ABS are set out in COP Decision VII/19D. An international ABS regime must implement CBD Articles 15 and 8(j). Ironically, CBD Article 10(c), which speaks directly to the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices is left out of the mix. Article 15 requires that access to genetic resources be allowed only on mutually agreed terms. There can be no access to genetic resources without prior informed consent. In addition the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources must also be based on mutually agreed terms. Nevertheless, Article 15 also limits the ability of those possessing traditional knowledge to exercise full stewardship over natural resources. This is done by vesting in national governments the authority to determine access to genetic resources. National governments also have the prerogative of waiving the prior informed consent requirement. It is also ironic that Article 8(j), which deals specifically with the conservation of biological resources in their natural surroundings, should form part of a regime which contemplates the removal of genetic resources from their place of origin. Article 8(j) requires parties to the CBD to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles; promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices; and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

The starting point for future negotiations of an international regime on ABS is the Annex to the COP 8 decision on ABS. The Annex has references to traditional knowledge in the objectives, scope and benefit-sharing sections as well as a separate section on traditional knowledge. Although heavily bracketed, in support of the preservation of traditional knowledge, the Annex includes references to sui generis models or systems, the protection of indigenous and local community rights, and the requirement for prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities. These draft provisions are more specific and more far-reaching than those of the CBD. The Potato Park Agreement, which operates within a 'reverse' ABS paradigm, enshrines the management of genetic resources by indigenous and local communities who have been doing so successfully for millennia. It could serve as a model for future agreements penned under an international ABS regime, because it provides a mechanism by which prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms could be arranged while ensuring that the traditional knowledge of local and indigenous communities is respected, preserved and maintained.

Wild Brazil, the Last Natural Refuges

Instituto Brasil Selvagem - Wild Brazil Institute

Photos courtesy of: Hemilce Bogetti and Carina Bogetti

Before anything we like to thank you and the Coordination of the Convention for the opportunity you gave us to explain our Projects to all the people that were participating in MOP 3 and COP 8. Our Side Event took place to show the importance of using the Communications Enterprises, just like TV International Nets, to give knowledge to all countries creating a "Global Preservation Conscience" and making people to be an important part in the fight to preserve the nature and the wildlife for the next generations. About 150 people participated of our Side Event. There were discussions if it is positive or negative the fact that the Brazilians knows about our Nation's mineral richness and the possibility that this knowledge to promote an uncontrollable start of mineer exploration. Another topic was the use of the electric resources without an equal distribution plan. We answer the questions showing them our position: "We think that the consequence of knowledge is a better condition of life combined with an ordenate and reasonable exploration of the natural resources". Logically, governmental planes have to start at the same time to obtain a positive capitalization of the changes in the inhabitant's costumes or in their way of life. However, the Wild Brazil Institute is now producing a complete Cycle of Documentaries about the Conservations Units of Brazil after doing an incredible travel to make the TV scripts of 47 National Parks and 14 of the most important Biological Reserves of Brazil. We named it "Wild Brazil, the last natural refuges" and, certainly, when the Documentaries appear in the National and International TV Nets, they will make people to love Nature, Patrimony of the Human kind.

At the end of our Side Event, the Minister Coordinator of the GTL, Mr. Ernesto Rubarth, received from Ms. Carina Bogetti, President of the Wild Brazil Institute, the Photo picture named "Flag, is the light, the sun and the water", renamed "Flag of the Biodiversity" and he took the picture for being part of the Ministry of Foreign Affaires Patrimony in Brazília.

It was really great for the Wild Brazil Institute to participate in the Convention. We are waiting for the next time.
Kindly, Dr. Santiago Ramos, Vice-President of Wild Brazil Institute

Note: There is a picture of the Given Ceremony on the Website of the Company that films our Documentaries, it is: www.trotamundosfilms.com.br in the menu you must open: empresa - notícias

For further information, please contact:
Wild Brazil Institute, Av. Nossa Senhora da Luz, 2257
Curitiba - PR Brasil, CEP: 82530-010
brselvagem@brturbo.com.br
www.brasilselvagem.org.br

Disclosure Requirements in Patent Applications: A Tool Against Misappropriation or an Obstacle to Innovation?

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the ABS Governance Programme (UNU-IAS, IDDRI, CPDR) and Chatham House

Henrique Choer Moraes of the Ministry of External Relations, Brazil, outlined the proposal jointly submitted by a group of developing countries, including India, Peru and others, to the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The proposal would amend the TRIPS Agreement to require patent applicants to disclose the origin of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (TK) used in the invention, and provide evidence of prior informed consent (PIC) and benefit-sharing in their application. Such a disclosure requirement would serve to make the TRIPS Agreement compatible with the CBD by ensuring that the patent system supports the Convention's objectives. It would allow provider countries to keep track of their resources used in inventions in other countries and address the international dimension of the problem of illegal access to and use of genetic resources.

Jeff Fritz from Dupont speaking on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) suggested that discussions in many forums had already led to significant obstacles in accessing genetic resources and stimulating innovation. He cited the pharmaceutical industry as an example which has been moving increasingly away from genetic resources towards synthetic molecules, while the agricultural seed sector tends to derive its resources from privately held germplasm banks and other international collections. Also, lack of national implementation of the CBD and the Bonn Guidelines has made it difficult for companies to comply with international norms. Additional disclosure requirements could provide further opportunities for patents to be challenged by governments, NGOs and particularly commercial competitors, thereby introducing uncertainty into the current IP system. He warned that this uncertainty would further dampen the willingness of companies to access genetic resources.

Martin Girsberger of the Swiss Federal Institute for Intellectual Property introduced the Swiss proposal on disclosure submitted to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Switzerland has proposed an amendment to WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty that would enable countries to require patent applicants to declare the source of the genetic resources and TK in patent applications. Since such an approach would be voluntary and only include the disclosure of source (and not PIC and benefit-sharing), the proposal would allow for agreement to be reached more quickly at the international level. At the same time, some countries are already implementing related provisions in their legislation which could serve to gain experiences without prejudice to further international efforts to strengthen disclosure requirements.

Assessing the advantages of a disclosure requirement, Brendan Tobin from the United Nations University – Institute for Advanced Studies suggested that policing the use of genetic resources and TK was beyond the capacity of developing countries and communities. Disclosure would help to ensure transparency while shifting the burden of proof regarding rights to use genetic resources and TK from the provider to the user. To facilitate disclosure, a certificate could be used at various stages, including patents applications, products approvals and for publications.

It could provide a simplified mechanism to demonstrate the origin of and tracking resources. In the absence of movement on this issue at the WTO or WIPO, Parties might want to consider using the CBD to strengthen multilateral backing of the proposal.

Most participants felt that political momentum was building in support of disclosure requirements – both in user and provider countries – although difference still remain on the scope that such a requirement should have (e.g. whether it should be voluntary or mandatory, or whether it should cover disclosure of origin, PIC and/or benefit-sharing). While some stressed that WTO Members are already free to implement disclosure requirements at the national level (and are already doing so), a few felt that the compatibility of these requirements with TRIPS provisions remains uncertain. Asked what advice they would give to the CBD expert group that will be appointed to explore and elaborate on the use of certificates of origin/source/legal provenance in the context of the international ABS regime, the speakers called for extensive involvement of all relevant stakeholder groups to provide their input into the discussions; an examination of commercial documents other than patents that could be used to facilitate disclosure; an assessment on how to most effectively integrate the CBD provisions in the IP system while ensuring that the resulting system was practical and workable.

For further information, see http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2006-03-28/2006-03-28-desc.htm or contact
David Vivas
Programme Manager – Intellectual Property
Technology and Services, ICTSD
dvivas@ictsd.ch

Protected Areas and Equity: Myth or Reality in the CBD?

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Care International, Kalpavriksh – Environmental Action Group and the IUCN WCPA-CEESP joint Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Care International, Kalpavriksh – Environmental Action Group and the IUCN WCPA-CEESP joint Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) organized a side event on Protected Areas and Equity during the CBD 8th Conference of Parties in Curitiba, March 2006. The objective of the event was to explore the equity issues associated with protected areas and to whether there was any real commitment within the CBD to addressing these.

The CBD Programme of Work (PoW) on Protected Areas includes a specific goal (Goal 2.1) on Equity and Benefit Sharing that suggests a number of activities CBD parties could take:

- Adjust policies to avoid and mitigate negative impacts, and where appropriate compensate costs & equitably share benefits in accordance with the national legislation.
- Recognize and promote a broad set of protected area governance types ..... which may include areas conserved by indigenous and local communities.
- Use social and economic benefits generated by protected areas for poverty reduction, consistent with protected-area management objectives.

Experience shows, however, that there are no simple solutions to enhancing equity within protected areas and many question the cost implications of following such a route when resources for conservation are already stretched and biodiversity loss is continuing unabated. There is a danger therefore, that despite the CBD's adoption of social justice rhetoric, there is little commitment to putting this into practice.

Dilys Roe (IIED) opened the meeting by providing a summary of the key developments in international conservation policy processes that had resulted in the adoption of equity goals in the PoW. Disquiet about equity - and the need to address it within the CBD - started to arise in the 2000 World Conservation Congress in Amman, but it was the 2003 World Parks Congress in Durban that was a pivotal point, with unprecedented attendance by indigenous and community representatives and the development of a range of recommendations covering governance, poverty, indigenous rights and so on. It was agreed at this meeting that the CBD's draft PoW on Protected Areas should take account of these recommendations, and at COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur the following year the PoW was finalized with an additional element on Governance, Participation, Equity and Benefit Sharing.

Rob van den Berg, Director of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Evaluation Office then presented highlights from the recently published Local Benefits Study to illustrate some of the equity issues associated with protected areas.

The objectives of the GEF study were:

- To explore the inter-relationship between environmental and local livelihood benefits
- To understand how to mobilize local actors to support environmental management and reduce negative impacts on local communities
- To assist the GEF family to improve its policies,strategies and implementation.

88 GEF biodiversity projects were sampled of which 76 were mainly focused on protected areas. Of these, restrictions on resource access featured in 72 projects but these costs imposed on local stakeholders dependent on natural resources were rarely recognized or addressed by project interventions. Equity and/or poverty issues were only considered in 29 out of 88 projects with most tending to ignore negative social impacts in design and implementation.

Addressing equity issues is specified in GEF operational strategy and policy. Strategic considerations for the Biodiversity Focal Area include, for example:

- Stakeholder involvement – including local communities in project design and implementation
- Issues of poverty … distribution of benefits and accountability for conservation of key resources
- Demographic, gender and social organizational processes that influence human and environmental interactions.

Further the GEF Incremental Costs Policy requests projects to consider that costs and benefits may accrue to different groups. To ensure acceptability and sustainability of the proposed intervention, good project design would address any re-distributional (equity) effects of that intervention. As with the CBD PoW, the rhetoric is there – the problem is one of turning good policy into good practice.

Lea Scherl (TILCEPA) emphasised the importance of addressing equity issues in protected area management – form both an ethical and a practical perspective and discussed whether different governance types for protected areas resulted in greater equity. Participatory governance is often assumed to be equitable – and indeed there are many success stories particularly amongst community conserved areas and co-managed areas. But there are also many problems. A lunchtime session held in the Community Taba on the same theme provided an opportunity for community representatives from developing countries to highlight some of the problems including the capture of benefits by powerful and elite groups (Kenya), the high transaction costs of participation (Philippines) and the lack of tangible benefits at the local level – despite a co-management agreement (Peru).

Identifying potential winners and losers from protected areas – at both the micro and macro scale – is critical to enhancing equity. A presentation by Phil Franks (Care International) found that conservation incentive mechanisms such as revenue sharing schemes and community trust funds can make a substantial contribution to conservation and equity but only if carefully targeted at those who are most dependent on natural resources and most affected by a protected area. The CBD has a critical role to play in providing an enabling framework for equity issues to be addressed, but worryingly there seems to have been considerable back-peddling on its commitment. COP 1, for example noted the need for “innovative measures, including economic incentives…., including those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify means by which these can be compensated, in accordance with article 11”.

This need to recognize winners and losers was re-emphasised at COP6: “any conservation measure has some impact on stakeholders; incentive measures should take into account those who benefit and those who assume the cost of that measure”. By COP8, however, there was no longer any reference to compensation for local costs, the purpose of monetary incentives being “to create a differential in favour of desirable activities where it is not feasible to discourage the undesirable alternatives through other measures” (ie a last resort).

The CBD’s apparent ambiguity on equity raises concerns as to its commitments to addressing this and other social justice issues in its PoW on Protected Areas. Having agreed to the insertion of these important goals in the PoW there is a real danger that the CBD will now feel the job is done and the hard-won efforts of indigenous and local community groups, social justice organizations and other advocates who lobbied so hard in Durban and Kuala Lumpur will have been in vain. Reinvigorating the social equity agenda of the PoW is essential to maintain the momentum from Durban. This is an issue that WCPA will be working with TILCEPA and other partners to address.

For further information, please contact:
Dilys Roe
Senior Research Associate
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
3 Endsleigh Street
London WC1H 0DD
UK
Tel: +44 (0) 207 388 2117
Fax: +44 (0) 207 388 2826
www.iied.org

Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' Participation in and Contribution to the CBD and Related Processes through the Indigenous Peoples' Network for Change Project

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

A side event to introduce the UNEP-GEF funded project of the International Alliance was organized on March 20, 2006 at 1500 hours. The panel of speakers included members of the Alliance (Lucy Mulenkei, Ester Camac, Vladimir Borchanikov, Theobaldo Hernandez), representative of the UNDP-SGP (Delfin Ganapin), UNEP (Mario Ramos and Nigel Sizer) and the Project Secretariat. The speakers gave presentations on how the IPNC is envisioned to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to participate in the CBD related processes. The Project will have different activities in the 10 regions aimed at disseminating information to indigenous communities on the CBD. Some of the activities highlighted by the speakers included, regional seminars on the CBD, development of an information management system, and using alternative media, such as community radios and newspapers to inform as broad a number of indigenous peoples as possible on the different aspects of the Convention. The speakers from the UNDP-SGP and UNEP, on the other hand, emphasized how important this Project was in building the necessary partnership between indigenous peoples and the UN agencies in implementing the goals of the Convention. The side event was attended by almost 100 people.

For further information, please contact:
Minnie Degawan
Project Coordinator
(Minnie@international-alliance.org)

Access and Benefit Sharing and Free, Prior, Informed Consent

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

Chair: Parshuram Tamang
Speakers:

- Yogesh Rai (Nepal)
- Jenifer Corpuz (Phil)
- Onel Masardule (Panama)
- Gajanande Bhrahmene/Ujjala Masdik (India)
- Le'a Kanehe (Hawaii)

On March 21st the IIFB held a side event based on the content of Access and Benefit Sharing and Free, Prior, Informed Consent case studies that were commissioned in preparation for the COP 8. The speakers of this side event presented and discussed the experience of Indigenous Peoples on the issues of these two themes from their respective countries.

The principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for indigenous peoples emanates, in the very basic sense, from general due process rights to which all humans are entitled. More importantly, the right to FPIC is firmly anchored on; inter alia, the collective, inherent and prior rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources and to self-determination. Consequently, FPIC is widely recognized and accepted in international law and domestic law, and is incorporated in the policies of a number of intergovernmental development agencies, international financial institutions and in various voluntary codes. In the context of resettlement of indigenous peoples, there is strong evidence that FPIC has attained the status of customary international law. The CBD is one of those bodies that recognize and accept the principle of FPIC. Specifically, Article 15 of the CBD on Genetic Resources, which sets the framework for the implementation of the third CBD objective, states in its fifth paragraph that: "Access to genetic resources shall be subject to prior informed consent of the Contracting Party providing such resources, unless otherwise determined by that party." Likewise, Article 8(j) recognizes that each Contracting Party shall promote the wider application of the knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous and local communities "with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices." The word "approval" here has been interpreted as having the same meaning as prior informed consent (PIC). Thus, the right of PIC of indigenous peoples and local communities over their knowledge, innovation and practices is explicitly recognized by the CBD. However, the concept of State Sovereignty over natural resources constitutes a serious threat to indigenous peoples' rights to permanent sovereignty over their resources. Indigenous peoples have responded to this threat by coming together and taking active part in CBD processes, asserting that State sovereignty is not absolute. Many indigenous peoples feel that, left unchallenged, this undue emphasis by the CBD on State Sovereignty could undermine the gains achieved in the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights in international and regional human rights fora. In fact, the CBD has already been cited in some human rights meetings as basis for denying

indigenous peoples' their rights over resources found within their lands and territories.

For further information, please contact:
Crescencio Reséndiz Hernández
(Crescencio@international-alliance.org)

Implementation of Article 8(j) at the National Level

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

Chair: Jose Nain
Speakers:

- Cecilion Solis Librado (ANIPA, Mexico)
- Florina Lopez (Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge, Panama)
- Bernardita Calfuqueo (Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Chile)

Despite the almost universal ratification of the CBD, 10 years after the signing of the Convention in the course of UNCED, the Summit on Sustainable Development had to point out that the rate of the loss of biological diversity continues to grow alarmingly and therefore it is necessary to set out new goals with time frames and serious commitments.

This is a general reflection of the CBD implementation process, and so the traditional knowledge: Article 8(j) and the so-called related provisions are also subjected to this pace of implementation. Although a programme of work on Article 8(j) was adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Parties, so far the only significant progress has been the adoption of the Akwé: Kon Guidelines for the cultural, environmental and social assessment of actions planned on indigenous territories. In fact, it is lack of real implementation at the national level, which restrains Indigenous Peoples and their organizations to have a greater and meaningful in the CBD implementation process. Since the creation of the Working Group on Article 8(j) the CBD Secretariat presented in 2003 at the third meeting of the Working Group a brief analysis of the implementation of the programme of work at the national level (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/3/3). It was clearly evident by the very limited of response from the Latin American parties had not taken the necessary steps to implement the programme of work on article 8(j). The Implementation of Article 8(j) at the national level case studies shows the inefficiencies or disinterests displayed by parties as compared to the proposals coming from Indigenous Peoples and their organizations that are working to bring the CBD content and discussion to the grassroots, elaborating projects for capacity-building, making legislative proposals, etc.

For further information, please contact:
Crescencio Reséndiz Hernández
(Crescencio@international-alliance.org)

Sustainable Use and Sui Generis Protection of Traditional Knowledge

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

Chair: Lourdes Amos
Speakers:

- Estebancio Castro (Panama)
- Rukmini Tohoeke/Emil Kleden (Indonesia)
- Lisa Saway (Phil)
- Haini Tainsong (Malaysia)

On Monday, March 27, a third side event was organized by the IIFB. The theme of the side event was "Sustainable Use and Sui Generis Protection of Traditional Knowledge".

For this side event two case studies were presented and discussed. The Sustainable Use case study is composed of two parts; the first part is about the "Toro Indigenous Community" experiences on the sustainable use of natural resources within their territory. It explores the relationship of the "adat" community structure in relation to the authority of the DESA regarding the management of resources in Indonesia. The second part of the case study deals with the "Indigenous and Tribal Community Practices in the Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resource and Biodiversity of Thailand". It talks about the failure of the various forestry laws to provide adequate means for Indigenous Peoples to voice their concerns and priorities regarding the impacts the implementation and/or enforcement of these laws would bear over natural resource management between the government officials and indigenous and local communities. Indigenous Peoples response has been increase use and blending traditional natural resource and biodiversity management with non-indigenous management forms. These are, for instance, organization of forest ordination ceremony, conduct research on biodiversity, formulation of natural resource management regulations including community mapping.

The second case study on Sui Generis Protection of Traditional Knowledge is centered around the Talaandig leadership experience regarding the collection of botanical specimens in Mt. Kitanglad without the consent of the community. The response of the Talaandig community was to confiscate all the botanical specimens collected by researchers of the Philippine National Museum in cooperation with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas as they were coming down from the Kitanglad Mountains. The case study explains how customary law can be effectively enforced only if there is a full awareness of ones culture and identity. Secondly, the enforcement of customary authority as an exercise of self-governance is an important tool for the compliance of the prior informed consent requirement. The prior informed consent requirement, on the other hand, is a very important tool for negotiating the sharing of the benefits derived from the extraction and utilization of the resources in the environment.

For further information, please contact:
Crescencio Reséndiz Hernández
(Crescencio@international-alliance.org)

Protected Areas and Island Biodiversity

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

Chair: Lucy Mulenkei
Speakers:

- Mathambo Ngakaeaja, (Botswana)
- Fiu Elisara (Samoa)
- Vladimir Bocharnikov (Russia)
- Sergey Ochurdiapov (Russia)

On Thursday, March 30 at 1:30 pm, the IIFB held its final side event, which was on Protected Areas and Island Biodiversity; just like in the other side events, panellists discussed and presented the experiences of Indigenous Peoples regarding protected areas.

It is evident by the presentation and discussion that took place at this particular side event, that despite all the best intentions of and the positive rhetoric that bundles the discourse of protected areas, Indigenous Peoples have been marginalized and in many cases fallen victims to it, to the point of suffering evictions from their homelands. There is a dire need to continue voicing and articulating the needs, the political isolation and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Regarding the presentation and discussion on island biodiversity, there was two parts to it, first, it was highlighted that Indigenous Peoples living on island have been impacted severely as a result of colonization of their territories, their traditional territories degraded which has resulted in the loss of biodiversity found in these areas. Second, a discussion on Indigenous Peoples participation within the CBD as it pertains to island biodiversity. It was said that due to the international Indigenous movement for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples rights for self-determination, governments have begun to accept that they have much to learn from Indigenous peoples, particularly in respect to conservation of biodiversity.

The recognition and protection of indigenous rights within protected areas are significant steps for the recognition of Indigenous rights related to island ecosystems, which acknowledges that traditional practices are consistent with conservation and sustainable use. In general, as the CBD moves ahead with the development and implementation of the Island Biodiversity Program of Work, it must embrace the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples, consistent with Articles 8(j) and 10(c) of the Convention. For instance, activities on island biodiversity should include the development of community-based wildlife and fish management within island, marine and coastal ecosystems, and within the priorities should be the recognition of traditional land use, the need for capacity-building, the importance of subsistence fishing and hunting to northern communities economies; and the long-term viability of community-based wildlife management.

For further information, please contact:
Crescencio Reséndiz Hernández, (Crescencio@international-alliance.org)

Access and Benefit Sharing: Does Certification Close the Gap? First Views of Stakeholders

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organised a side event designed to provide information and views from a range of experts and stakeholders on the debate on certification of source/origin/legal provenance. This issue falls within the context of discussions on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) at the CBD.

Held over lunch on Wednesday 22 March during CBD COP 8, the side event was titled: "Access and Benefit Sharing: Does Certification Close The Gap? First Views of Stakeholders" Four speakers were followed by questions and discussion with the audience. The four speakers were: Jose Carlos Fernandez Ugalde (Mexico), Geoff Burton (Australia), Kate Davis (Kew Gardens, UK), Anke van den Hurk (Plantum NL).

These four speakers approached the question from the following perspectives:

i) the context for proposing some form of certification and the issues it must resolve to be useful;
ii) Australia's experience to date implementing an electronic source verification tool;
iii) the practical needs and limitations within a scientific research organization – both in terms of what information can be tracked and how it can be stored; and,
iv) the complexities of the modern seed industry and its experience with other forms of certification: any new certification proposal must be carefully analysed to ensure practicality and feasibility if it is to facilitate access to genetic resources and ability to generate benefits to be shared.

The side event was very well attended with over 45 attendees representing 17 governments, environmental NGOs, press and industry. The following discussion was animated, with a consensus on the need to identify workable and cost-effective solutions appropriate to the context.

All four presentations are available on the ICC Website under the IP area of work (http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ip/id3060/index.html) and on the CBD COP 8 Website on the virtual display table under Business and Industry (http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop8mop3/cop-08-table-industry.shtml).

The side event was organized by the ICC's Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing.
For more information contact Daphne Yong-d'Hervé at ICC (dye@iccwbo.org; +33-1-49 53 28 24) .

International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization

Biological Diversity and Nutrition

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Government of Brazil, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Emile Frison, Director General, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute. Photo courtesy of: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Emile Frison, Director General of IPGRI, described a proposed crosscutting initiative on biodiversity and nutrition. The proposal grew out of a request by COP 7 for IPGRI and FAO to look at the merits of establishing such an initiative. Frison described a number of actions that have been taken since COP 7 to put agricultural biodiversity on the nutrition agenda. Keynote presentations have been given to the U.N.'s Standing Committee on Nutrition, the First International Conference on Health and Biodiversity, the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, and a major international meeting on neglected species, which took place in Chennai in May 2005.

Setting the stage, Frison explained that one out of three people suffers from malnutrition. Overly simple diets providing energy from refined carbohydrates, fats and oils is the major culprit. The resulting so-called diseases of affluence—obesity, heart disease, diabetes—will be the most serious health challenge facing us in future.

Agricultural biodiversity provides important tools for meeting this challenge, as well as ensuring farming systems that are at once more productive and more stable. Frison gave examples—from Kenya and India—where traditional crops, long neglected by consumers, have been reintroduced into markets with significant benefits for people's health and livelihoods.

Recently, a major stakeholder consultation on the topic, held in Rome, brought together experts from 25 countries to discuss the relationship between dietary diversity and nutrition. The experts concluded that any major initiative to promote greater diversity in diets would need three major pillars:

- Research: There is a need to consolidate and curate knowledge on the role of diversity in peoples diets as well as to understand how markets could be used to better promote diverse diets
- Policy: Supportive and motivating policies and incentives are needed to ensure that diversity is available and consumed.
- Public awareness: Awareness campaigns are needed to promote a change in what people eat.

Linda Collette from FAO described the work of that organization on nutrition. In particular she cited FAO's work with partners to record food composition data. She noted that countries have requested FAO to prepare an action plan to help countries keep records of such data, which are important to ensure the promotion of nutrient-rich varieties of crops. The promotion of the links between dietary diversity and nutrition has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

Paulo Kageyama, from the Ministry of Environment, Brazil reinforced his country's support for a cross cutting initiative on diversity and nutrition. Brazil has played a leading role in promoting the initiative to the COP. He described his country's own efforts to put into place a cross-cutting initiative on agricultural biodiversity. The Brazilian initiative is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and involves seven Ministries in total. He also described Brazil's Zero Hunger Strategy, whose purpose is to ensure the human right to adequate food, to promote nutritional safety and to achieve social inclusion. The Strategy involves ten Ministries, the national Food and Nutrition Security Council, partnerships at all levels of government, civil society and 80% of Brazil's farmers. The Zero Hunger Strategy includes an important element of environmental and nutritional education. Kageyama concluded his remarks with a statement of Brazil's commitment to working with IPGRI and FAO to implement the cross cutting initiative.

Paulo Kageyama, Ministry of Environment, Brazil. Photo courtesy of: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Elsa Alcocer Vargas, from Agro-industry and Nutrition, Bolivia summarized the work that is taking place in Bolivia on quinua, cañahua and amaranth to try to identify appropriate genetic materials for the market. PROINPA has focused on revaluing these crops by means of Seed Fairs. Promising accessions of quinua and cañahua have been found and rescued, as well as the associated traditional knowledge in danger of being lost. PAIRUMARI is countering the loss of amaranthus by collecting, regenerating and characterizing the material. University of San Andres, working with women's groups has focused on optimizing traditional processing of quinua and cañahua to decrease the loss of nutrients and has also developed some standards to improve and expand the uses of these grains.

David Cooper from the CBD Secretariat expressed the appreciation of the Secretariat to IPGRI, FAO and Brazil for organizing an important and informative side-event. He commented on the impressive range of projects that are underway to support the initiative, even before the initiative has been adopted by the COP. He emphasized the importance and timeliness of the proposed cross cutting initiative and its potential to contribute to the Convention's second objective on the use of biodiversity.

For further information, please contact:

Toby Hodgkin , Principal Scientist
Global Partnerships Programme
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00157 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy
Phone: (39) 066118212
Fax: (39) 0661979661
Email: t.hodgkin@cgiar.org

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication/Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

COP 8 Working Group 2, discussed the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). Indonesia, on behalf of G-77 and China, as well as Austria, on behalf of the European Union, set the tone of the discussion on this issue. Delegates expressed their support for the CEPA work program, as an important element for achieving the objectives of the Convention. They stressed the importance of CEPA as an integral element of National Biodiversity Strategies and the need for synergies with the CEPA Programs of other Conventions, and the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

More attention was asked for the funding aspects and human resources for CEPA. Reference was made to IUCN-CEC, as an important partner for implementing the Work Programme, and to the IUCN Count Down 2010 Initiative, as a key framework for action. Some delegates stressed the importance of a CEPA toolkit, as one of the elements of the priority activities. CITES, UNEP, and UNESCO expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Secretariat to implement the CEPA Work Program.

A number of delegates referred in their statements to the IUCN-CEC/SCBD side event on the previous day. The side event was led by Denise Hamú, CEC Chair, and attended by over 90 participants, more than half being from government delegations, UN bodies, and representatives from other Conventions.

Haroldo Castro, CEC Co-Chair for Strategic Communication, presented CEPA strategies through the 4-P Workshop approach which Conservation International is using world-wide for planning strategic communication. During the event, a CI-CEC publication was launched.

A panel of speakers facilitated by Susana Calvo, also CEC Co-Chair for Strategic Communication, show-cased how CEPA takes place on the ground. In this panel, Diann Black-Layne highlighted how the private sector is supporting CEPA activities in Antigua and Barbuda Island. Sylvi Ofstad, from Norway, presented CEPA in the context of European Frameworks of priorities, while Ana Puyol, from Ecuador, underlined the importance of working with non-traditional sectors in relation to the Environmental Citizenship Project in Latin America.

The debate centered on the difficulties that parties have when dealing with CEPA on different levels (national and local strategies).

Subsequently, in a second panel, Peter Bos, from The Netherlands, and David Ainsworth, from the CBD Secretariat analyzed the opportunities and challenges to advance the CEPA Program of Work.David Ainsworth presented the short list of priority activities for the Work Program include: to establish an implementation structure for CEPA activities in the CBD Secretariat; to conduct knowledge and awareness audit; to develop key messages; to implement media relations strategy; to elaborate toolkit for implementation of national CEPA strategies; oorganize workshops for the articulation of national CEPA strategies; convene and host workshops

to facilitate the implementation of National CEPA strategies.

Peter Bos underlined that the implementation of the CEPA work program was a responsibility of the Parties, and should be related to the National CEPA Action Plans and to the National Biodiversity Strategies. He stated the need of regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation. Emphasis was given to the fact that the CBD Secretariat should stimulate, facilitate and strengthen CEPA´s work program.

Participants reacted by providing a series of arguments to why CEPA is a crucial instrument for the Convention, and stressed the need for financial support and training to implement the priority activities of the Work Program. They urged the Secretariat to explore GEF funds and other financial mechanisms of the Convention to support parties implementing CEPA strategies.

2. Main results and outcomes on CEPA·

- 150 CEPA side event brochures distributed to delegates
- More than 90 people attended the CEPA side event of whom 25 were CEC members
- 200 copies of different CEC publications and brochures distributed to delegates interested in CEPA at side event
- Launch CEC/CI Publication on 4 Steps for Strategic Planning of Communication
- IUCN CEC mentioned by parties during COP 8 official session as an important partner for the implementation of article 13 CBD
- Report on discussion of COP 8 on CEPA and CEPA side event featured on IUCN website
- Good working relations established with members of the Informal Advisory Committee on CEPA, SCBD, Ramsar and CITES
- More clarity on relation toolkit to CBD work program on CEPA
- Support from IAC for the CEC project approach to develop toolkit and satisfaction with user survey and joint planning workshop with end users, e-specialists, authors and conventions
- Interest of Norway to support a ABS/CEPA meeting in Latin America, if their funds are matched by another donor
- List of participants of CEPA Side Event sent to the Secretariat of the CBD

For more information, please contact : hesselink@hect.nl

Presentation of an Upcoming 2006 European Conference on Integrating Biodiversity into Development Cooperation

IUCN Regional Office for Europe

How can the European Union give biodiversity and related ecosystem services a higher profile in its development cooperation agenda? This was the theme of a side event, convened by the IUCN Regional Office for Europe on 22 March during the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The event focused on the upcoming conference "Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation", to be held in Paris on 19-21 September 2006. The World Conservation Union (IUCN), together with the European Commission, the current Austrian EU Presidency and the forthcoming Finnish EU Presidency, as well as Belgium, France and Sweden presented the upcoming conference for the first time.

The main objective of the conference is to help address biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through their development strategies. Another objective is to formulate concrete recommendations to better address biodiversity issues through all EU development cooperation strategies and programmes.

The conference will bring together 350 participants of partner developing countries, European countries, the European Parliament and Commission, experts and representatives of civil society, and observers from international environmental agreements, as well as other organizations and donors.

While the conference concept was well received, some participants suggested focusing more strongly on training and awareness raising, especially for ministries of finance, trade, transportation from developing countries who are key counterparts in bilateral negotiations.

For more information, please contact: conf2006@iucn.org or check www.iucneuropoe.org.

Meeting of EU Members States Biodiversity Strategy Focal Points

IUCN ROfE (Regional Office for Europe)

The World Conservation Union helps European countries to implement the Biodiversity Convention

Europe is getting a step closer to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). A new network between the EU focal points for National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAP), responsible for the implementation of the CBD in their countries, will be set up with support of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

That was the main outcome of a side event held by the IUCN Regional Office for Europe (ROfE) on 21 March 2006 under the 8th Conference of the Parties to the CBD. The event, organized upon request of the French Ministry of Environment, responded to a general need of information and best practice exchange between the NBSAP focal points who until now work in relative isolation from each other.

Representatives of Denmark, France, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, IUCN ROfE and the French IUCN National Committee attended the meeting. Finland expressed interest in being part of the network. They decided to start exchanging information informally, including through an internet forum, a new website and regular meetings.

The World Conservation Union will provide the secretariat of the new network, with financial support of France.

For more information, please contact:
Jean-Claude Jacques at jean-claude.jacques@iucn.org or
Gilles Kleitz at gilles.kleitz@ecologie.gouv.fr

Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPAs) and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.Launch of 2006 World Database on Protected Areas

IUCN World Conservation Union

The objective of this side event was to emphasize the importance of TBPAs for achieving biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in line with the objectives of the CBD and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The side event showcased the achievements of the collaboration between the Italian Government and IUCN on TBPAs and presented key on-going initiatives and projects that can show the potential benefits derived from transboundary conservation.

The event also launched a new and improved version of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The WDPA not only plays a crucial role assessing progress under the CBD but also highlights the growing trend to create transboundary complexes of protected areas. The event was attended by around 60 participants who contributed to an open question & answer session on this topic and the way forward.

For more information, please contact:

Peter Shadie
Senior Programme Officer
Programme on Protected Areas
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
Rue Mauverney 28, CH1196
Gland, Switzerland
peter.shadie@iucn.org
See also www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/

Measuring Progress Towards the 2010 Target

IUCN Species Programme

Background

In 2002, the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed a commitment, 'to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth' (Decision VI/26). This commitment was endorsed later that year by over 180 governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg and is widely known as the '2010 target'. At COP 7 in 2004, the Parties adopted a framework for assessing progress towards and communicating the 2010 target at the global level (Decision VII/30), which listed specific goals and targets to be achieved by 2010. The CBD's scientific advisory body, SBSTTA, recommended a number of headline indicators by which to measure these goals and targets (Recommendation X/5, Annex I), which have now been adopted by this 8th COP.

These indicators provide governments with the means to monitor and report progress in achieving the 2010 targets, both within their countries and globally in the context of the CBD. However, despite extensive discussions, indicators capable of measuring global trends in biodiversity have not been implemented. At the global level there are very few datasets that have relevant data and the geographic scope and temporal depth to establish trends in the status of components of biological diversity. Only four years remain in which to deliver results.

The IUCN Red List Index is one of the few global indicators able to show changes in the state of biodiversity by 2010. In addition, national Red Lists can provide indicators at the country level and assist in monitoring and reporting requirements. IUCN's species data also underpin a whole suite of other indicators, such as those relating to threats to biodiversity and the effectiveness of conservation actions. IUCN is playing a lead or supporting role in 13 of the 18 indicators adopted by CBD, demonstrating the importance of IUCN's data in helping the CBD to measure the 2010 target. However, increased resources are urgently needed to develop these indicators.

Agenda

1. Background and aims of the side event
   Dr Holly Dublin, Chair of IUCN Species Survival Commission (HD)
2. Issues of scale: national, regional and global data
   Dr Jane Smart, Head of Species Programme, IUCN (JS)
3. Species-based indicators for 2010
   Dr Jonathan Baillie, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, UK (JB)
4. Planning for the future: new indicators for 2010 and beyond
   Dr Noëlle Kümpel, IUCN Species Survival Commission and Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, UK (NK)

5. Facilitated discussion, focussing on the following three questions:
   i. What are the barriers to the development of global biodiversity indicators by 2010?
   ii. How can national and regional data be better incorporated into global indicators?
   iii. Which are the most critical indicators that should be developed in the long-term (post-2010)?

Summary of presentations

The IUCN Categories and Criteria are now applicable at the regional scale and IUCN is keen to work with countries to help implement the new system. This will greatly facilitate the flow of data between spatial scales. Regional Red Lists developed using this method will help to form a more transparent baseline from which both national and global indicators can be developed.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, compiled through the continuous collection and periodic reassessment of species data by the specialist network of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC), provides the basis for one of the best-developed indicators of the state of biodiversity for 2010, that of changes in the status of threatened species. This is measured using the IUCN Red List Index and the new IUCN Sampled Red List Index. These indices will provide indicators of biodiversity trends at the global level and by region, ecosystem or taxonomic group. They can also be used to show trends in threatening processes, such as invasive alien species, exploitation and trade.

IUCN's species data contributes to a total of 13 indicators in four focal areas: the status and trends of the components of biodiversity, threats to biodiversity, sustainable use and ecosystem integrity, goods and services. In additional to the indicator for trends in threatened species, the SSC is also currently focusing on indicators of the coverage of protected areas, trends in invasive alien species, biodiversity for food and medicine and sustainable use. However, we need to start thinking beyond 2010 and start designing new indicators to fill some clear gaps. IUCN feels that next generation indicators need to be developed related to threats such as climate change, disease and habitat loss/fragmentation. In addition, IUCN would like to increase its focus on indicators of sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly by local communities, given the explicit reference to poverty alleviation in the 2010 target and the likely incorporation of the 2010 target into the Millennium Development Goals.

Group discussion – comments and questions from the floor

i. What are the barriers to the development of global biodiversity indicators by 2010?

- Need a more positive vision for the future than simply trying to 'slow the rate of loss of biodiversity' – could compile a 'blue list' of species that have improved in status
- Problems in Latin American region are threefold: capacity, coordination and resources – money is given to projects concerned with the promotion of sustainable use or environmental management rather than 'monitoring' – this is probably true in most regions
- COP is a barrier in itself – where every Party has a different measure and can't agree
- Can we set up indicators to show if policy objectives are being met, such as those for CITES? – although need to maintain scientific objectivity separate from political agenda

ii. How can national and regional data be better incorporated into global indicators?

- Need to work on capacity building so that local conservation groups can collect useful species data
- Need to resolve regional data collection differences and transboundary issues
- National institutions hold most data but need to improve access and find a way of improving country coordination so that data collection and coordination is easier
- Need to adopt a global standard for national or regional Red Lists
- IUCN are in a position to help as we have clear and well developed standards; through the SSC network we are plugged in to many institutions; we are developing the tool kits needed to produce standardized national assessments that can be scaled up to global level

iii. Which are the most critical indicators that should be developed in the long-term (post-2010)?

- Drivers of biodiversity loss – climate change, pollution, habitat loss etc.
- Links to poverty alleviation – indicators of the biodiversity-poverty relationship are difficult but are needed
- Need to look at synergistic effects – e.g. climate and fragmentation, poverty and exploitation
- Whilst threats to and reliance on biodiversity are clearly very important, it is critical to get state indicators right first, as this is the central tenet of the CBD's target; impact indicators are tangible and measurable and will also get policy-makers' attention

Conclusions

The IUCN Sampled Red List will provide one of the best indicators of trends in the state of biodiversity for 2010. IUCN's species data also contribute to a broad suite of other indicators. The CBD has committed to measuring progress towards the 2010 target, and IUCN stands ready to develop and implement the indicators proposed. However, only very limited resources have so far been provided for indicator development. Thus, whether or not the target can be measured in 2010 ultimately depends on the priorities of the Parties to the Convention.

Sustainable Support for Protected Areas: Optimizing IUCN & WCPA's Support to the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Launching Sustainable Financing Options for Protected Areas

IUCN- The World Conservation Union & Bundesamt für Naturschutz

The capacity of IUCN & its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to support CBD Parties in implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas is clearly referenced throughout the Programme. This side event promoted an IUCN/WCPA proposal to significantly lift the levels of support to national implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas Discussion centred on how IUCN could best add value to the implementation process. The event also launched, with the support of Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz - BfN), a new publication on 'Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas: a global review of challenges and options'. A moderated panel discussion followed presentations and around 50 participants discussed how more sustainable support for protected areas could be fostered under the CBD.

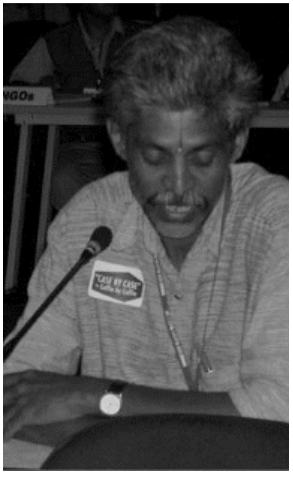
For more information, please contact:

Peter Shadie
Senior Programme Officer
Programme on Protected Areas
IUCN - the World Conservation Union
Rue Mauverney 28, CH1196 GLAND, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 (0)22 999 0159; Fax: + 41 (0)22 999 0025
Mob: + 41 (0)79 477 2133; Email: peter.shadie@iucn.org
See also http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/

Livestock Keepers' Rights are Crucial to Domestic Animal Diversity Conservation

League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development

Seventy per cent of the world's poor keep livestock. They have developed a wide diversity of domestic animal breeds. These breeds are adapted to the conditions of subsistence farming which around 640 million livestock keepers practice. They produce milk, eggs and meat, plough the fields and transport goods and people in rural areas, often in spite of the pressures of heat, drought, diseases or parasites. Many of these breeds are kept by pastoralists; in fact, the driest areas sustain the widest breed variety.



Mr. Vivekanandan, representative of a livestock-keeping community in Tamil Nadu, India, urges the COP 9 Plenary to consider Livestock Keepers' Rights. Photo courtesy of: League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development

Among the worlds 190 million pastoralists are the Gabbra breeders in Northern Kenya. Chachu Ganya of the Pastoralist Integrated Support Program in Kenya reported that with an adequate mix of species like camel, cattle, sheep and goat, they make the best use of the limited resources. Their use of fodder and veterinary plant species is sustainable, and with their mobility they contribute to the biodiversity of the whole ecosystem.

Pastoralists mostly use lands largely unsuitable for cropping. Still, they often are driven away from lands they are holding grazing rights for since long. In India as in many other countries, pastoralists are denied seasonal grazing rights in protected areas, as Perumal Vivekanandan of the Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Voluntary Action (SEVA) from Tamil Nadu told the audience of a side event on 21 March. The pastoralists have to send many of their animals to slaughterhouses in response. Their youth migrate to cities to find alternative livelihoods. In Rajasthan however, pastoralists are getting organized to claim their traditional rights in courts.

In Southern Africa, indigenous breeds contribute 38% of the Gross Domestic Product, explained Susanne Gura of the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development. This figure does not even include the subsistence sector, draught power and manure. Tuli cattle, Damara sheep and the Boer goat as the best meat breeds in the world are used to improve breeds in industrialised countries. Unrestriced by monopolies, gene flow from South to South helped the cattle industry in Brazil: The Ongole cattle in India is the source of the Nelore breed which 85% of Brazilian cattle origins from. Huge benefits were created in Australia where the Garole sheep from West Bengal helped the Australia wool industry to grow during the past centuries.

With the advent of genomics, there is a danger that the so far free access to genetic resources is limited by patent monopolies. The genomes of cattle, sheep, pig and chicken are identified. Monsanto has applied for

patents on pig breeding in 160 countries, and research is ongoing to find in the Red Maasai sheep the genetic base of this breeds high tolerance to a parasite that plagues the global sheep industry, for example. Therefore, a global gathering of pastoralists took place in 2003 in Karen, Kenya to claim Livestock Keepers` Rights.

Pastoralism has recently been taken up by development organisations in a supportive way, explained Meeting Chair Maryam Rahmanian of the environmental NGO CENESTA in Iran. UNDP runs the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism, in cooperation with environmental organisations like IUCN. FAO is intensifying its work on Animal Genetic Resources. A series of international meetings are planned. Pastoralist organisations as well as NGOs like the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development are prepared to campaign for Livestock Keepers' Rights. Livestock Keepers claim their Rights to participate democratically in making decisions on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources access, save, use, exchange, sell their animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, unrestricted by Intellectual Property Rights and without genetic engineering have their breeds recognized as products of their communities and as Indigenous Knowledge and therefore remain in the public domain and benefit equitably from the use of animal genetic resources.

This Karen Commitment was formulated by 70 representatives of pastoralists and NGOs from around the world at a workshop held in Karen, Kenya, in October 2003, organised by Practical Action –ITDG and the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development.(www.pastoralpeoples.org).

Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for MERCOSUR/ Estrategia para la Conservación y uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad para el MERCOSUR

MERCOSUR, Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development - National Coordination Sub Working Group Nº 6- Argentina

Como es sabido, la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad es necesaria para el desarrollo social y económico de los países, y teniendo en cuenta que la perdida de biodiversidad en un país puede causar efectos significativos en la biodiversidad de un país vecino, las mas altas autoridades ambientales del Mercosur consideraron necesario aunar esfuerzos nacionales y traducirlos en una estrategia sub-regional de conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad, teniendo en cuenta la oportunidad que brinda el art. 5° del Acuerdo Marco sobre Medio Ambiente del Mercosur en lo que refiere a la coordinación de posiciones entre los Estados Parte ante los foros ambientales internacionales. A raíz de esto, los Ministros de Medio Ambiente de MERCOSUR firmaron, en oportunidad de su I Reunión Extraordinaria, una Declaración sobre Estrategia de Biodiversidad del MERCOSUR.

El día 29 de marzo de 2006 en el marco de la COP 8 sobre Biodiversidad realizada en la ciudad de Curitiba, Brasil, se presentó la Declaración adoptada por los Ministros de Medio Ambiente del Mercosur en el Side Event "Estrategia de Biodiversidad del MERCOSUR". Dicho evento fue presidido por el Sr. Secretario de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de Argentina, en ejercicio de la Presidencia Pro Tempore del Mercosur, Dr. Atilio Savino y estuvieron presentes autoridades ambientales de los demás Estados Parte, como así también participó el Sr. Ricardo Sanchez, Director Regional de América Latina y el Caribe del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)

En este Side Event se presentaron los antecedentes que llevaron al área ambiental del Mercosur a contar con un instrumento sobre Biodiversidad. Se desarrollaron, además, los logros llevados a cabo por la subregión para avanzar en la implementación de la Convención de Biodiversidad y los esfuerzos a nivel nacional que están realizando los países del bloque. Este evento, a su vez, fue una oportunidad para mostrar al mundo cómo la subregión avanza en la implementación del Convenio de la Biodiversidad Biológica.

For further information, please contact:
Para mayor información sírvase contactar a:
Dra. Melina Garcia Luciani
Asistente Técnica
SGT Nº 6 Medio Ambiente Mercosur
Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable
Teléfono: (54 11) 4348-8334 Fax: (54 11) 4348-8388
Email: mluciani@medioambiente.gov.ar

Working Group About an International Meeting of Environmental Education in Conservation Reserves

Ministério do Meio Ambiente (Environment Ministry of BrazilI), Diretoria de Educação Ambiental (DEA), Diretoria de Áreas Protegidas (DAP)

Photo courtesy of: Ana Flora ,Caminha/MMA

The idea for this side event emerges from the need of a participative articulation to discuss the organization and themes for an International Meeting of Environmental Edication in Conservation Reserves, that might happen in August 2006, in Iguassu Falls, PR, Brazil.

At this side event, it will be presented the objectives of this international meeting so the audience can discuss them, give contribuitions and think about the importance of a grater integration between education field and conservation reserves, with perspectives of estructurating public policies to environmental education in protected areas. It will also be discussed, under the perspective of objectives established mutually, the central thematic of the meeting as well as another possible themes, approachs and experiences that could be related.

It is also intended to establish, at this side event, the articulation of a network of countries and institutions interested in the construction of this international meeting, maintaining a distance interlocution among organizational institutions – Ministry of Environment of Brazil (MMA) and Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources/IBAMA – and the possible partnerships to realize this meeting. This partners indeed can arrange a greater dialogue with their home interlocutors bringing up the discussion about themes and experiences to present at the international meeting, managing its diffusion to a greater audience and estimulating a wide participation.

This side event is designed for educators and other professionals that work at conservation reserves and/or with public policies to protected areas and with environmental education, and others that might be interested.

Photo courtesy of: Ana Flora , Caminha/MMA

Coordination:
Maura Machado Silva (DEA/MMA)
Bióloga, Analista Ambiental
Diretoria de Educação Ambiental - DEA/MMA
+ 55 61 4009 1207
maura.silva@mma.gov.br

Fingerponds – Seasonal Ponds in African Floodplains for Fish and Agriculture

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in cooperation with
Enki O.O.S. Czech Republic

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for the Czech Republic to present the project in which several countries, institutions and experts have joined their will and efforts with the aim to improve the life of people in developing countries.

Mrs. Brozova during presentation. Photos courtesy of: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

The team consists of UNESCO - IHE Delft, Egerton University, Makerere University, University Dar es Salaam, King's College London, ENKI, o.p.s. Czech Republic. The project is a good example of environmentally friendly intervention to traditional local habits, about the possible way of supporting biodiversity in dense populated flood zones in rural areas of Africa.

In order to present main principles of functioning and management of Fingerponds briefly and clearly, the Czech Official Development Assistance Programme has financially supported the film you are going to see. The film is taken as one of the results of this international research project, which was also co-financed by the EU.

Some good ideas are quite simple, and this is also a case of this project. But not an easy challenge, in reality, to develop the system, which should be

- Sustainable
- In accordance with "wise use" of wetlands (according to Ramsar convention)
- Uncomplicated
- Using simple technology
- Accepted by the local people, integrated in their lively hood activities and of direct benefit to them.
- Without a need of capital investment.

During the period 2001 – 2003 altogether twenty four small elongated fishponds (c. 20 x 10 m) were built in littoral zone of Victoria Lake in Uganda, in Kenya and in riparian zone of Rufiji River in Tanzania. At each of six localities 4 ponds were built. Small fishponds were dug in the wetlands at the edge of the swamp in the dry

land during dry season when the water level was at its lowest. The elongated ponds are called fingerponds as they look like finger going from terrestrial zone into swamp.

Between the ponds the land was cleared and prepared for cultivation of vegetable and crops. When the rain-season comes the water flows through the wetlands and floods the ponds that have been dug. The water carries fish with and when flood declines fish is trapped in the separated fishponds. Ponds are flooded during the rain period and disconnected from the main water body when water recedes. If the fish are fed through the dry season it grows faster and can be harvested until the ponds dry out and the cycle starts away when rain comes. Mixture of dung and green manure, which is collected from around the swamps, is used as fodder. Artificial fish feed is not used, as it is too expensive.

Role of the Czech Republic

The Czech team is responsible for pond management and elaboration of methods and indicators for fish production and fishpond management. On the basis of data from the field, people are advised what to do to ensure the survival and growth of fish. The Czech aid includes also the training of African experts involved in the Fingerponds project. But the tradition of African fishermen's training in the Czech Republic had started even before this project, which in fact has been developed as a reaction to huge devastation of Victoria Lake as a consequence of unsustainable fishing.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Jana Brozova
CBD, Bern and the Carpathian Convention National Focal Point
Department for the International Conservation of Biodiversity
Ministry of the Environment
Vrsovicka 65
100 10 Prague 10
Czech Republic
Tel: +420 267 122 375
Fax: +420 267 126 375
Email: Jana_Brozova@env.cz

Dr. Jan Pokorny
Director
ENKI, o.p.s.
Dukelska 145
379 01 Trebon
Czech Republic
Tel.: (+420) 384 706 173
Tel./Fax: (+420) 384 724 346
E-mail: pokorny@enki.cz

Regional Forestry Genetic Co-operation - Towards Global Goals. An Illustrative Example from the Nordic Countries

The Nordic Council of Ministers

The speakers were Harald Aalde from the Norwegian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Lise Lykke Steffensen from the Nordic Council of Ministers, Lennart Ackzell from The Nordic Council for Forest Reproductive Material, and Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs and Piotr Borkowski from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

Summary:

Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Island and Sweden, are working together to fulfil our present obligations of protecting biodiversity and genetic resources for future generations of the Nordic countries and international community. This is done to conserve biodiversity and genetic diversity of significance to the Nordic environment, agriculture and forestry and to preserve our cultural heritage as the basis for long-term sustainability.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has now for more than two decades given high political priority to the issues of genetic resources. The overall Nordic goals as regards to biodiversity and genetic resources are carried out within the framework of the Nordic Strategy for Sustainable Development as well as the implementation of specific strategies for the environment, fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors. A specific Nordic Strategy for the Conservation of Genetic Resources has been adopted for 2005-2008.

Forest tree genetic resource

Most of the Nordic forests lay within the boreal coniferous forest zone, with pine, spruce and birch as the main trees species. To the south of this region are the temperate (oceanic and continental) forests, in which even some noble hardwood species such as oak and beech occur. Boreal mountain forests are found at higher altitudes and in the north. Even further north is the treeless tundra.

Forestry is of great importance to the countries in the Nordic Region. Nordic Council of Ministers programmes contribute to the socially, economically and ecologically responsible management and utilisation of forests and timber resources in the Nordic region.

Nordic forest gene collaboration

In Nordic forestry, gene conservation is mainly achieved through the establishment of so-called in situ gene reserve forests or plantations. Protected areas, genetic collections and breeding archives also play a role in con-

serving the gene diversity of forest trees.

In addition to measures aimed primarily at gene conservation, genetic resource management also includes sustainable forest utilization and control of plant material used in forestry.

Within Nordic cooperation the forest tree genetic resources are managed by two organizational bodies; the Nordic Council for Forest Reproductive Material (NSFP) and the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS).

The NSFP arranges yearly conferences and seminars where mainly practitioners meet researchers and administrators to discuss relevant themes within the range of genetics-seed and plant production/trade – forest regeneration and the final result. Successful regeneration after felling is a central element of sustainable forest management in our legislations. The responsible for gene conservation programmes from each country meet yearly in a network to share views and experiences and to be informed and develop views to regional and global arenas. We have found that this flexible collaboration set-up for lessons learnt between countries, bridging national- regional- and global levels for ownership and avoiding duplication can be very cost efficient.

European collaboration

EUFORGEN European Forest Genetic Resources Programme

- Established in October 1994 as an implementation mechanism of the Ministeral Conference on the Protection of European Forestry (MCPFE) meeting in Strasbourg 1090 (Resolution 2)
- Collaborative programme among European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources
- Fully financed by the member countries (>30)
- Coordinated by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in technical collaboration with FAO

EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009)

1. Promote practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management
2. Make available and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe
3. Facilitate further development of methods to conserve genetic diversity of European forests

- EUFORGEN Networks bring together scientists, policy-makers and managers to exchange information, discuss needs and develop strategies and methods for better management of forest genetic resources in Europe

- Forest Management Network
- Conifers Network
- Scattered Broadleaves Network

- Stand-forming Broadleaves Network

Network activities

- Development of long-term conservation strategies
- Preparation technical guidelines for genetic conservation of tree species (for practical managers)
- Promotion of gene conservation in forest management
- Identification of common research and development needs
- Development of project proposals
- Exchange of genetic materials
- Close collaboration with the Nordic Network on Forest Tree Genetic Resources Conservation
- Through EUFORGEN, the member countries also contribute to fulfilling their CBD commitments (cf. CBD Extended Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity)

Accès et Partage des Avantages: Enjeux, Perspectives et Coopération Francophone

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

L'événement parallèle que l'Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie a organisé en marge de la COP 8 de la Convention sur la diversité biologique portait sur le thème : «Accès et Partage des Avantages : enjeux, perspectives et coopération francophone». Les objectifs de cette rencontre étaient de :

- faire le point sur la question de l'APA dans les négociations internationales en terme d'enjeux et de perspectives de résultats,
- partager les expériences pratiques des pays francophones dans la mise en place de législations nationales et dans le domaine du renforcement des capacités,
- promouvoir la coopération francophone, notamment le réseautage de l'expertise et le partage d'information.

Les interventions étaient structurées en 3 parties selon les objectifs ci-dessus :

- une mise en contexte des négociations avec 2 présentations sur les enjeux et les perspectives de résultats de la Conférence d'une part et sur le futur régime international sur l'APA d'autre part ;
- deux études de cas sur le renforcement des capacités dans le cadre de l'APA au Gabon et sur la mise en place d'un cadre juridique relatif à l'APA à Madagascar
- le type de coopération entre pays francophones en s'appuyant sur l'exemple de la sous région Afrique centrale

Photo courtesy of: Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Les discussions ont porté principalement sur le renforcement des capacités de l'expertise francophone dans les domaines de l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation, les connaissances, innovations et pratiques traditionnelles, la mise à disposition de l'information en français et le type de coopération entre les pays francophones.

L'atelier a connu la participation d'une cinquantaine de délégués de différents pays d'Afrique, d'Europe et du Canada, des représentants d'organisations des Nations Unis, d'institutions publiques et des ONG de différents pays francophones et d'Amérique Latine, ainsi que de représentants des populations autochtones et locales d'Afrique.

Les délégués ont également échangé sur les différentes opportunités pour l'espace francophone de mettre à niveau son bassin d'experts dans la maîtrise de ces questions. Ils ont exprimé le souhait de rendre les réseaux francophones plus aptes à soutenir les pays dans les négociations. L'importance d'associer les femmes et les

communautés locales (en tant que détentrices de connaissances et utilisatrices de ressources) dans les actions de renforcement des capacités de la Francophonie a été relevée à plusieurs reprises.

Photo courtesy of: Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Rappelons enfin qu'à l'occasion de cette rencontre, plusieurs documents ont été distribués, dont le « Guide du négociateur à la CdP-8 de la CDB », produit par l'IEPF en partenariat avec l'Université Laval (Canada-Québec) qui a été mis à la disposition des déléguées francophones. Ce guide a été fortement apprécié par tous comme outil indispensable à la maîtrise des enjeux des négociations.

Plusieurs représentants des pays ont recommandé la multiplication des rencontres francophones en marge des Conférences des Parties et de toutes les réunions connexes à la CDB.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie
IEPF

South America Medicinal Plants Network: Dialogues for Sustainability

Pacari Network

Presentation:

Both the politic project and the trajectory of the South American Medicinal Plants Network was presented. The Network was created in 1998 with the objective of promoting sustainable use and conservation of medicinal plants, guaranteeing full access to medicinal plants by local communities. It also works towards stimulating the creation of spaces for reflection and construction of knowledge, using as a starting point the dialogue between various methods of investigation, experimentation and systematization of actions developed in different countries.

After that, experiences of two countries that are part of this Network, were shown: the Pacari Network – Medicinal Plants of Cerrado experience (Articulação Pacari – Plantas Medicinais do Cerrado), from Brasil, and CET-SUR*: the valuation of the popular medicine from Mapuche people, from Chile. The South America Medicinal Plants Network is also made up of local groups, NGO, reseachers, universities and other collaborators. It is organized in national networks of the following countries: Brasil (Pacari Network – Medicinal Plants of Cerrado experience), Argentina ("Rede Salud y Plantas"), Uruguay ("Articulación Uruguai") and Chile ("Articulación Chile").

*CET-SUR: Centro de Educacíón e Tecnologìa para el Desarrollo del Sur

Discussion:

In this side event there were representatives from Ministério do Meio Ambiente do Brasil (Brasil's Environment Ministry) and others governmental agencies as Embrapa – Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Brasilian Company from Farming Research) and Agência Ambiental do Estado de Goiás (Goiás State's Environment Agency), and even from others brazilian companies as Boticário and Central Flora. There were also representatives from the press - Ciência Hoje Magazine, and NGO's – Agrotec, Sobrevivência, Anamuri, Instituto Humbolt and Instituto Socio Ambiental, instead of UN's representation.

Public politics' construction to regulate the popular use of medicinal plants in South America countries were the top of the discussion. Colombia's research about the popular use of native plants and the Brazilian Cerrado's Popular Pharmacopeia, that are not cientific papers, guaranteeing the access of local communities to these informations.

The Brazilian experience from Pacari Network – Medicinal Plants of Cerrado indicates the existence of a gap in public politics, related to this subject. This is the reality of others South American countries, so it is necessary to know the effective law. The rigid character of Brazilian laws do not legitimizes local communities reality and others processes of ecological transformation. The challenges are: to protect and to validate the tradicional knowledge and the environment, besides we must dicover the best way to register and guarantee the communities rights.

Chile's intercultural hospital, where there are more than one alternative of assistence: conventional medicine or Mapuche's medicine is a true exemplo of recognition. Nevertheless, under the politic perspective, this strategy tries to save medicines and don't intend to create a space to the community action.

Related to the use of the traditional knowledge by companies, as the Boticário** that invests on researches of Brazilian native plants properties expecting a better definition of the Nacional Politic of the country about this subject.

**Brazilian Company that produces in wide scale cosmetics derivatives from native plants and exotic plants.

For further information, please contact:
Pacari Network: pacari@terra.com.br
Alternative Technology Exchange Network: anabarros@rede-mg.org.br

Connecting Agriculture and Biodiversity: Integrating Action of BIRD/ GEF Projects in the Southern Cone of South America

Paraná Biodiversity Project, Government of the State of Parana/ World Bank

Coordination: Mr. Erich Schaitza, Paraná Biodiversity Project
Mr. Michael Carroll, World Bank

The World Bank and GEF are on the verge of financing several projects in the Southern Cone of South America that aims to promote the linkage between Natural Resources Management in Productive Landscapes and Biodiversity Conservation. All projects share similar objectives , but are developed with different strategies as the environmental situation and socioeconomic background of each region differ.

The COP 8 was a unique opportunity to bring these projects together to share lessons learned in four areas: policy management; capacity building; natural resources and biodiversity management in productive landscapes and project design and implementation. The COP also afforded project teams an opportunity to learn of nine new regional projects that presented their strategies and action plans during one of the COP side events. At the side event, the World Bank presented its view of integration and of the enormous gains of working together within a network.

The creation of the Southern Cone Natural Resources Management and Biodiversity Knowledge Network was officially announced at the COP. Initially focused on the BIRD/GEF regional projects, the network aims to (i) promote the knowledge sharing of project implementation experiences, both in terms of the operational and thematic issues related to projects; (ii) foster integration among projects; and (iii) create formal mechanisms of exchange of information and outreach of best practice.

The following projects have already declared their commitment to the network:

1. Microbacias do Rio de Janeiro,
2. Rio Grande do Sul Biodiversidade,
3. Projeto Producción Responsable,
4. Paraná 12 Meses,
5. Paraná Biodiversidade,
6. Rio Bonito/Formoso no Mato Grosso do Sul, ,
7. Paraguai Biodiversidade,
8. Projeto Pastizales,
9. Projeto Matas Ciliares de São Paulo.
10. Mbaracayu – Paraguai.

An additional seven regional projects have been invited to join the knowledge network.

Under the leadership of Mr. Michael Carroll, of the World Bank, a group of representatives of the Southern Cone countries involved in the network were nominated to design the operational strategy of the network.

The event jointly organized and supported by the World Bank and the Government of Paraná, through Parana Biodiversity and Parana 12 Months Projects, was followed by four field trips presenting actions of those two projects.

Media and Protected Areas - Construction of a Communication Strategy

Protected Areas Division/Ministry of the Environment – Brazil
In association with:
Eicos Program/Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Brazilian Environmental Journalism Network

At this event we aimed to get journalists together to discuss the broadcasting of Protected Areas through media, bringing problems and faults, and giving suggestions to improve its diffusion, supporting countries in the construction of a Communication Strategy to Protected Areas.

The event started with the presentation "Media, Are You Green?", a work of Maria Cecilia Trannin, scholar of EICOS Program/Rio de Janeiro Federal University, which shows the broadcasting of Protected Areas at Brazilian mass media, including interviews with environmental journalists to know and interpret their perspectives, opinions, problems and suggestions.

This work demonstrates that Protected Areas are mainly broadcasted at media as a show, when there is a disaster for example. And Protected Areas are still treated by media with a utilitarian perspective: parks, for example, are nothing but a way that urban citizens have to enjoy the contact with nature – the biodiversity conservation has no value to media.

At the round-table, we had the participation of two environmental journalists who talked about their experiences: Eduardo Geraque, Brazilian, from FAPESP Agency, and Tim Hirsch, British, BBC employee at that time and now free-lancer.

The discussion has just started and remains the need of thinking about the way media treat the environment – planning a strategy to change it. In Brazil, for example, we have some categories of Protected Areas that include people in their perimeters and those people help to conserve the biodiversity. That was never shown by any media. People from all over the world have the right to know about it and that's the aim we shall pursue.

If you think that the way media shows the environment might be changed, don't hesitate contacting us to bring suggestions and contributions. Our email address is: dap@mma.gov.br.

Strategies for Developing National Clearing-House Mechanisms

by Olivier de Munck
Computer Information Systems Officer, Clearing-House Mechanism
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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1. Introduction

In accordance with Article 18.3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the clearing house mechanism (CHM) has been established as a unique mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific co-operation among Parties. The objective of the side event, organized by the Secretariat, was to provide guidance to Parties willing to further develop their national clearing-house mechanism and improve its effectiveness in contributing to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.

The guidance provided was in line with the CHM strategic plan for the period 2005-2010 (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/18) to be endorsed by Decision VIII/11, and with section III.E of the addendum to the proposed budget 2007-2008 (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/28/Add.1) describing the Executive Secretary's vision of the services provided by the CHM.

The side event was divided into three major parts. The first two depicted the overall situation of the CHM, by providing some general background information and presenting a global review of the current CHM network. The third part focused on recommended development strategies tailored to specific needs.

2. Background

A brief overview of the COP Decisions on the CHM was given, from its formal establishment by Decision I/3 to forthcoming Decision VIII/11 adopting the new Strategic Plan and Programme of Work. Other key Decisions included Decision II/3 which started the pilot phase and requested the designation of CHM national focal points, Decision IV/2 requesting the first independent review, Decision V/14 adopting the CHM Strategic Plan, and Decision VI/18 requesting the second independent review.

Participants were then introduced to the mission, strategic goals and objectives of the new CHM strategic plan:

- Mission: To contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and

its programme areas and cross-cutting issues, especially the 2010 target, through the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation, among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders.

- Goal 1: The CHM is promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation.
- Goal 2: The CHM is promoting and facilitating exchange among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders.
- Goal 3: The CHM is fully operational with the participation of all Parties in an expanded network of partners.

Photo courtesy of: The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

A summary of the findings of the two independent reviews was also presented. The first review, conducted by a consulting firm, covered the pilot phase 1996-1998. Its report (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/2) recommended a clarification of the role of the CHM, improved information dissemination and accessibility, and an effort in addressing the infrastructure needs. The second review was carried out by UNEP-WCMC between October 2002 and July 2003. Its report (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12) contained many recommendations to raise awareness, develop networking with biodiversity-related partners, improve managerial and organizational structures, enhance web site content, develop interoperability mechanisms, facilitate cooperation, and ensure sustainable financing.

3. Current Situation

As far as the current situation was concerned, participants were told that the CHM consisted of a network of 152 CHM national focal points with 77 national CHM web sites. At the same time, they were reminded that 36 Parties had yet to designate their CHM national focal points, and that 10 CHM national focal points still did not use e-mail to communicate with the Secretariat. The analysis was also further broken down by region. Overall, the situation was fairly good thanks to the existence of many national CHM and some excellent cooperation initiatives, but with many challenges ahead. The main issues remained at the level of sustainability due to limited financial resources and capacity. In some countries, there seemed to be a lack of awareness about the role of the CHM.

4. Strategies

This assessment led to strategic recommendations to assist Parties in the development of their national CHM. A few general guidelines were presented followed by more specific recommendations. First of all, each Party should be convinced of the usefulness of the CHM and should integrate it in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan to ensure its sustainability. Then, cooperation and networking should be strengthened. This could be done by joint collaborative efforts, by sharing resources and experiences, by developing South-South cooperation through regional CHM nodes, and by re-focusing on technical and scientific cooperation.

Due intrinsic differences between Parties, no one-size-fit-all solution would be appropriate, and assistance

should be adapted to specific needs. For that purpose, a scale of levels ranging from 0 to 5 was setup to classify the national CHM.

Photo courtesy of: The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

In the absence of a CHM (level 0), an effort should be made to get on board those Parties that have yet to designate their CHM national focal point. Guidance included information on how to select a national focal point and its host institution. For a starting CHM (level 1), solutions should be found to ensure that a CHM national focal points has the basic facilities required to fulfill its terms of reference. If an existing CHM has no web site (level 2), guidance and support should be provided to help establish a web presence. Once the web presence has been established (level 3), the web site content should be enhanced so as to turn the national CHM into a relevant national biodiversity information dissemination instrument contributing to the achievement of the 2010 target. A fully-developed national CHM (level 4) would then be encouraged to share expertise to support other national CHM. Finally technically advanced national CHM (level 5) could go one step further and establish interoperability mechanisms to automate information exchange with the Secretariat or other partners.

5. Conclusion

The side event concluded with key points to keep in mind. It was reminded that each Party should integrate a CHM component in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Resources and expertise remained a challenge for many Parties and building partnerships could prove very helpful. It was also recommended that CHM national focal points be as pro-active and creative as possible. Finally, the Secretariat reiterated its commitment to assist Parties in their efforts and thanked all participants for attending the side event.

Celebrating Ordinary People Protecting Biodiversity

SEEDS – Social Equity in Environmental Decisions

The side event, with the title 'ordinary people celebrating biodiversity' was attended by a hardcore of about 15 people, mostly from NGOs. We showed three films documenting the stories of communities displaced by development projects: suits and savages - conscious cinema - with an introduction by one of the film makers, who we were lucky enough to have with us; the return of the plaedeck - assembly of the poor Thailand, and development at gunpoint, community media, India.

The films all showed resistance and community efforts to safeguard their eco system from an
a) GEF/world bank funded protected areas project, in which the World Bank complaints committee supported the local community
b) the opening of a dam for a few months, restoring the livelihoods of the river dwellers that had been decimated by the river being blocked for nine years, and ,
c) the resistance of a community in northern India trying to resist a bauxite mine.

For further information, please contact:
seeds@gn.apc.org

Good Practices, Conflicts and Necessities to the Integrated Management of one of the Most Important Remaining Areas of Atlantic Rainforest – Epa of Guaraqueçaba, Brazil

Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education

This event has as objective to present and to debate the interrelated efforts carried out during 20 years to protect an area of great interest to conservation of biological diversity. Despite of of many positive results reached by these efforts, this area is still deficient of a model that approach the area management with local communities for its effective protection. Created in 1985, the Environmental Protection Area (EPA) of Guaraqueçaba, in the state of Paraná, Southern Brazil, is a Conservation Unit under Brazilian law. This area is part of the biggest preserved remaining area of the Atlantic Rainforest, biome considered as a world priority for the conservation of nature.

The EPA of Guaraqueçaba shelters the third most important complex system of estuaries and lagoons of the world, a richness cradle for countless endemic and threatened fauna and flora species. Since its creation, governmental and non-governmental environmentalist institutions have carried out measures seeking to offer management tools for the area. These tools consider the precept for the environmental conservation and mitigate the aspects that represent threats to the environmental integrity of the region, such as improper productive activities, low human development index, among others. It is outstanding that the EPA of Guaraqueçaba in 1999 was declared as Reserve of Biosphere by UNESCO – the highest international recognition for the protection of a natural area.

Conservation of Psittacine Bird Species as a Contribution to Reduction of Biodiversity Loss

Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education

The Atlantic Rainforest Biome is listed among the 10 most important areas on our planet for protection of biodiversity, having been reduced to around 7% of its original forest cover. This biome is considered one of the world's hot spots, since it is home to one of the largest biodiversities on the surface of the planet, with a high rate of endemism, although extremely threatened.

Brazil is the country with the largest diversity of psittacine birds, with no less than 72 species, followed by Colombia (51 species) and Venezuela (49 species). Psittacine birds are among the most threatened bird species in the entire world. In Brazil alone, 16 species are on the List of Brazilian Fauna Threatened with Extinction. In the Amazona genus, the threatened species that stands out comprise the red-tailed parrot (A. brasiliensis), the red-spectacled parrot (A. pretrei), the red-browed parrot (A. rhodocorytha) and the vinaceous parrot (A. vinacea).

The red-tailed parrot is endemic to a narrow strip of the southern Brazilian seaboard between the States of São Paulo, Paraná and the north of Santa Catarina, which constitutes the largest continuous remaining area of the Atlantic Rainforest. The region has a series of different Conservation Units and in 1991 was declared as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. The chief threats are the loss and fragmentation of the environment, the removal of native species of vegetation and the heavy pressure to capture recently hatched birds for illegal trading in wild species.

The vinaceous parrot occurs in isolated sections of the Atlantic Rainforest, all the way from the south of Bahia (in the Northeast region of Brazil) to the North of Argentina and East of Paraguay, always in the highlands. Distribution accompanies sloping altitudes that begin at 400 meters in the south and from 600 to 1,000 meters in the Southeast and Northeast regions of Brazil, generally linked to Araucaria (Brazilian pine) forests. The degree of to which the species is threatened with extinction is greater from the north to the south of the area of occurrence and the factors are the same as affect the red-tailed parrot: suppression of the original vegetation and capture of recently-hatched birds. In the case of the vinaceous parrot, there is an aggravating factor that consists of the habit of these birds to seek the edges of forests, near human settlements, to build their nests.

The red-spectacled parrot occurs in the south of Brazil, covering part of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, in areas covered with Araucaria forests. Intense felling of trees in this region in the past 50 years has brought this environment to the verge of extinction. The remaining areas of these forests have become very reduced, fragmented and impoverished in their composition and vegetative structure. Factors that have negatively affected the number of red-spectacled parrots are the steep decline in their populations together with degradation of the forests and capture of their nestlings.

Such a situation demonstrates the urgency of proposing effective methods to eliminate such factors, which increasingly affect the environment in a highly negative manner and thus place biodiversity at risk. To such end, it is necessary to identify all the gaps that can compromise the success of a project for conserving threatened species. It is fundamentally important to contextualize the habitat of the species, in order to fully learn about the extent of the threats, obtain a scientific basis consistent with its ecology and propose a workable conservation program. In order to be effective, such programs have to act on different fronts, such as scientific research, monitoring and tracking, management of the environment and the species, environmental education and public policies. By and large, programs matching this profile are complex, long-lasting and therefore costly. They are complex because they depend on a wide variety of people with different interests (players), not just the institution in charge of the project. They are long-lasting because the responses to the actions taken are not immediate. And they are costly because they require a group of specialists from many different fields, and their actions have to be continuous so as to avoid delays and retrogressions. Obtaining funds for development of a complex program for conserving a threatened species is extremely difficult, often becoming dependent upon funds provided by government sources, which most of the time cover less than 50% of the amount required to attain the targets set.

Aggravating this scenario is the enormous deficit in inspecting natural resources, both in preventive and punitive terms, due to lack of inspectors such as forest wardens and/or lack of funds to maintain an effective infra-structure. Generally, the habitats of threatened species also suffer various forms of pressures from local people who have to make use of readily available natural resources for their own survival. Frequently such people live in precarious conditions, lacking funds, sanitation and education.

Even though the activities carried out so far by institutions devoted to psittacine bird conservation in the south of Brazil have managed to achieve positive results, their actions have to be considered limited due to the shortage of funding and the lack of continuity in terms of support. To turn this situation around, what is now needed is an efficient system of integrated actions conducted in such a manner so as to -- besides meeting the specific objectives -- establish interfaces between the players and their actions, thus realizing the full potential of the chances for conservation of the region and the species.

Dialogue for the Forest Biodiversity in Brazil and Portugal

Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education

The aim of this event is to present participants with nature conservation strategies used in the south of Brazil and in Portugal that use the relationship between the private sector and environmental activities to conserve native forests which represent biomes and species threatened with extinction.

The Brazilian case of such a biome is materialized in the Program for Adoption of Forests with Araucária (Brazilian pine) and natural fields, headed by the Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education (SPVS). The aim of this program is to encourage proprietors of small- and medium-sized plots of land to maintain Mixed Cloud Forests (known locally as Araucária forests) and Natural Fields intact, with private funds being used to provide economic incentives. Already applied in the State of Paraná, and despite not yet being formally encouraged by official environmental agencies, the tool of adopting forests has proven to be worthwhile as an excellent incremental strategy for conserving this important biome.

The Araucária and Natural Fields biome tails out the southern end of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest, one of the most important in the world due to the plethora of native species of flora and fauna. All told, just 7% of the original area of the Atlantic Rainforest remains and, in relation to the Araucária cloud Forest, a mere 1% of the original area. Accordingly, both are extremely threatened with extinction.

Portugal presents the Quercus Fund for Nature Conservation (FCN), developed and conducted in that country by the Quercus National Association for Nature Conservation. Its objective is to undertake activities that guarantee funding for Nature Conservation projects. At present its main goal is the creation of a network of mini biological reserves. The chief goal of such reserves is to preserve natural and semi-natural habitats, as well as species of flora, invertebrates and small vertebrates that are considered rare, threatened or in danger of extinction. It also fulfills important functions in terms of scientific research and environmental education.

For further information, please contact:
Sandro Coneglian – SPVS (sandrojorge@spvs.org.br)
Samuel Infante – Quercus (sam_infante@iol.pt)

Experiences of the Spanish Cooperation on the Protection of Biodiversity: The Indigenous Programme and the Araucaria Programme

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (aeci)

Summary

The Spanish Cooperation has as a priority goal the fight against poverty through the creation of basis for self-sustained development. The Second Master Plan of the Spanish Cooperation (2005-2008) explicitly recognizes as a priority the support to the recognition and effective exercise of the Indigenous Peoples' right to develop their own social, economic, political and cultural development processes. At the same time, it also sets environmental sustainability as a sector and cross-cutting priority. Both the cooperation with indigenous peoples and the protection of the environment are fundamental parts of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Indigenous Programme of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of the Spanish Strategy for the Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples. The Programme coordinates and monitors projects and activities in this area, raises awareness on the importance of this priority and is responsible for the follow-up to International Fora and adopted international commitments on indigenous issues. The Spanish Cooperation recognizes that the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples have always played an important role for the conservation of the biodiversity. In this respect, the Spanish Cooperation supports the recognition and effective implementation of Indigenous rights over their biodiversity resources, including genetic resources as well as their traditional knowledges, technologies and economic practices and innovations.

The Araucaria Program of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation is in charge of the protection of the environment in Latin America. Araucaria interventions seek a balance between the conservation of the diversity and the social development of the local community. As on example of it, the case of the Galapagos Islands was presented to the audience.

The discussions highlighted the development dimensions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the implications for Aid Agencies.

For further information, please contact:
Organisers:
Rafael Soriano Ortiz
Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
Avda. de los Reyes Católicos, 4
28040 – Madrid (SPAIN)
Tel: 91 – 5838240
Fax: 91 – 5838338

rafael.soriano@aeci.es
http://www.aeci.es

Avda. Reyes Católicos, 4
28040 Madrid (ESPAÑA)
Tel: [Haga clic aquí y escriba el nº de tel.]
Fax: [Haga clic aquí y escriba el nº de fax.]

Dissemination of Traditional Knowledge and Grassroots Technologies

Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Voluntary Action (SEVA)

This side event has been presided by Mr. Jock Langford, Senior Policy Analyst, Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity Office, Govt. of Canada. Mr. P. Vivekanandan, Executive Director of SEVA, has presented 15 years of experience of "Honey Bee Network" in India in documentation, testing and dissemination of indigenous knowledge and innovations. He told that " Honey Bee Network" includes volunteers, knowledge holders, innovators and NGOs who document and publish newsletter in seven local languages for communicating indigenous knowledge and innovations. He explained various means of recognizing innovators and knowledge holders through awards, incubation of technologies, micro-venture capital support, IPR protection and capacity building. He also presented about activities of National Innovation Foundation, promoted by Honey Bee Network during the year 2000. At present National Registrar on Outstanding Traditional Knowledge and Grassroots Innovations has been created and so far about 50,000 entries are registered over the last five years. About 50 patents have been filed including few patents in US and facilitated transfer of technologies for more than 15 cases. There is a scope for replicating Honey Bee Network model and other developing countries including Latin, American countries for promotion of green technologies.

Dr. Shakeel Bhatti from WIPO, Geneva has presented about how WIPO is playing a role in protecting traditional knowledge and folk lore from misappropriation and misuse. Dr. Shakeel has explained Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) needs minimum documentation of knowledge, innovations required from National Government. He explained how PIC should be culturally acceptable. He mentioned that objectives and principles of traditional knowledge protection has 14 articles which create Suigeneris of TK protection and misappropriation (WIPO document – GR TKF / IC / 9 / 5). WIPO entered an MOU with CBD to protect IPR while dealing with National Government and World Trade Organization.

To a question on how Honey Bee Network operates through out India and what infrastructure facilities available?, Mr. Vivekanandan has replied that Honey Bee Network functions through volunteers and also use existing Government infrastructure facilities including technological institutes such as Indian Institute of Technology and Engineering Colleges. Few members from Brasil, Chile, Nepal and Zimbabwe expressed interest in starting Newsletters in their respective countries in their local language. Mr.Vivekanandan has requested members to join the global level knowledge network for sharing indigenous knowledge and innovations across regions and enhance communication in local languages.

Implementing Article 8(j): The Swedish Approach

Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM)

In December 2005 the Swedish government decided to launch a national programme on local and traditional knowledge concerning the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This was a direct result of the ongoing discussions concerning art. 8(j) in the Convention on biological diversity (CBD). The national programme will in its first phase run for six years with the aim to initiate the safeguarding of relevant traditional knowledge, innovations and practices according to art. 8(j).

Sweden is one of the few EU countries to have indigenous people, the Saami. In addition to the Saami, Sweden also has many tradition holders represented in small-scale use of the biological resources. Reindeer husbandry, small-scale farming, forestry, hunting, and artisanal fishery all depend on traditional knowledge. Artisanal fishermen are still dependent on knowledge of the seasonal behaviour of the fish, weather conditions and wind directions to make their catches. Fish, both fresh and smoked, is sold directly by the fishermen locally to tourists and summerguests. Farm dairies produce traditional cheese made from cows and goats that graze in the forest which has been grazed for centuries. Traditional knowledge and local traditional products still play an important role in rural development even in a highly industrialized country like Sweden.

In this context we also wish to point out that a “local community” does not necessarily constitute a geographical unit, but could also represent a “traditional knowledge system community” with geographically scattered members, who are linked together by their knowledge. There is still a rich treasure of traditional knowledge upheld by tradition holders in most western countries. The conservation of this knowledge is not only a question of biological diversity, but also an important element of our cultural identity.

The loss of traditional knowledge and the rapid changes in land tenure in a country like Sweden also constitute a major threat to the biodiversity. A large proportion of the threatened biodiversity is directly or indirectly dependent on man and traditional land tenure for its survival. An important factor is the modernisation of forestry and agriculture that has occurred during the 20th century and that has led to urbanization and abandoning of farms. This has led to a change in the fauna and flora and eventually the extinction of species. Traditional knowledge and customary uses might thus have positive implications both on biodiversity and on rural development.

The national programme will be coordinated from Swedish Biodiversity Centre, which is a result of the government’s signing of the CBD. This is done in direct collaboration with the Swedish Saami Council when it comes to issues concerning the Saami traditions. Also other relevant tradition holders/ stakeholders will be involved in the process. The purpose of the national programme is to:

- document traditional knowledge
- maintain and preserve local and traditional knowledge
- work as a link between tradition holders and national authorities
- initiate research concerning traditional knowledge

Since 1997 an ethnobiological research project “Man, plant and animals: ethnobiology in Sweden” has been carried out at the Swedish Biodiversity Centre to promote interest in the conservation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. The project has resulted in fifteen reports, six national symposia and two volumes of a planned three-volume encyclopedia describing the traditional uses of biodiversity in Sweden. When the third volume is released in spring 2007 we will have an encyclopaedia, covering 1 500 pages, giving a popular introduction to the historical, present, and sometimes also the future use of our biodiversity.

The main aim of this project is to increase the knowledge about and the interest in conservation of both biodiversity and traditional knowledge. So far the project has also indirectly resulted in about half a dozen Swedish university courses in ethnobiology. More students will therefore be aware of the value of traditional knowledge and the role of the tradition holders in the conservation of biological diversity. They are also more interested in documenting the remaining knowledge. Hopefully this will give a further incentive for in situ conservation of traditional knowledge. The project is also one of the reasons why in 2002 the Swedish government commissioned the Swedish Biodiversity Centre to make a report on the national implementation of Article 8(j). This report provided an overview of the present situation and proposed measures to fulfil the obligations of Article 8(j). It also forms the foundation on which the national programme will be built upon.

The ethnobiology project focused in its early stages mainly on popularisation. In its work the national programme will focus on public awareness activities as well as practical case studies involving local knowledge communities. This is to start both the work with documenting the remaining knowledge and at the same time try to address issues concerning perverse incentives within the governmental regulatory framework.

For further information, please contact: Håkan Tunón, National Coordinator
Swedish Biodiversity Centre
Box 7007, SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden
Email: hakan.tunon@cbm.slu.se
Phone: +46 18 67 25 91 or Fax: +46 18 67 35 37

Picture 1. In northern Sweden there are still Saami people involved in reindeer husbandry, an activity involving a large proportion of traditional ecological know-ledge. The impact of summer grazing reindeer is essential for the conservation of the biodiversity in the mountain areas in the north-western parts of the country. Photo courtesy of: Jan Gustavsson/Ájtte.

Picture 2. Small fishing villages along the east coast of Sweden is an important part of the cultural heritage of coastal communities. Local fish products is a much appreciated by tourists and summerguests. The artisanal fishing has by the Swedish authorities been described as much more sustainable than the large scale industrial fishing. Even if the nets and fish traps are of modern design the art of placing them is influenced by traditional knowledge about local conditions and fish ecology. Photo courtesy of: Håkan Tunón/CBM.

The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative

Swedish Species Information Centre

The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative (STI) is an All Taxon Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) of Sweden coordinated by the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artdatabanken) and completed in collaboration with Swedish universities and natural history museums. Fully funded from 2005, the project aims to completely chart the flora and fauna of Sweden within 20 years. A two-year marine collection effort will be launched this summer and a three-year Malaise trapping program targeting poorly known insect groups has just been completed. Preliminary estimates from the latter project indicates that it will add more than 5,000 species to the Swedish list of 50,000 multicellular organisms; at least 1,000 of these are expected to be new to science. An important goal of the STI is to present all Swedish species that can be identified without advanced techniques in a Swedish Flora and Fauna Encyclopedia (Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna). The well-illustrated Encyclopedia will include easy-to-use keys as well as descriptions of all species and summaries of their biology and conservation status in Sweden. In total, the Encyclopedia will include about 130 volumes, the first two of which appeared in 2005 and covered butterflies and millipedes. Like many forthcoming volumes, the book on millipedes represents the first Swedish text describing all species occurring in the country.

Amateur naturalists are encouraged to collect information about the species presented in the Encyclopedia through the Species Gateway, an observational database originally developed by Swedish bird watchers and now being extended to cover other organism groups. Amateur naturalists currently represent the most important information source concerning the distribution and abundance of Swedish species and an important goal of the STI is to enable and encourage this group to study a broader range of organisms, significantly improving Swedish biodiversity monitoring in the process. The STI represents an important step forward in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity; without a completely inventoried flora and fauna, measuring progress towards goals such as the 2010 target becomes dangerous guesswork. Hopefully, experiences gained during the STI will be valuable in conducting similar studies both in neighboring countries in the Northern Europe as well as in more biodiversity-rich countries across the globe.

For more information, please contact:
Fredrik Ronquist
Dept. Systematic Zoology, Uppsala University, Sweden
Steering Committee, Swedish Taxonomy Initiative,
Swedish Species Information Centre,
Uppsala, Sweden
fredrik.ronquist@ebc.uu.se

Rights to Plant Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, Options in the Framework of the World Trade Order

Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC)

At this occasion, the results of a research project, mandated by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, and executed by the World Trade Institute, University of Berne, Switzerland, were presented. The opportunity being unique, at the same time, the book publication of the results of the research was launched.

Speakers were T. Oertle, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, who opened the Side Event and S. Biber-Klemm of the World Trade Institute, Berne, who presented the results of the research. She gave details of the research mandate by the SDC, gave an overview over the results of the research and illustrated them with the case of the Hoodia Cactus of the San of South Africa.

The objective of the research was to generate studies and recommendations with a view to support and facilitate policy formulation and possible initiatives relating to the legal status of plant genetic resources, including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and traditional knowledge in the framework of the world trade order.

The basic insight resulting from the research is that future policies and law need to build upon the long-term interest of both, developing and developed countries in conserving global biodiversity and long-term food security. S. Biber-Klemm stated that the present legal order does not sufficiently take into account these needs. It also fails to take into account the needs of the developing countries. She submitted that trade policy offers the potential to build a key part of global agricultural and environmental policies which serve the interest of both agricultural and industrialized countries alike.

Means, instruments and institutions needed to this end, mainly to create incentives to promote the conservation and sustainable use of traditional knowledge and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, were then presented and discussed. So, for instance, the creation of specific sui generis intellectual property rights of the TRIPS Agreement; and ways to support the maintenance of information which cannot be allocated to specific authors; as well as alternative concepts within the trade of traditionally generated information and related products.

The ensuing discussion focussed on the concrete options for the international North-South cooperation and its limiting factors.

The publication of the results of the research (S. Biber-Klemm and T. Cottier, eds. Rights to Plant Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge. Basic Issues and Perspectives) is available at CABI Publishing (www.cabi-publishing.org/bookshop)

Institutions of developing countries may order free copies of the book at project@traditionalknowledge.ch.

The Role of Private Lands Conservation in Implementing the CBD: A Regional Vision for Latin America

The Nature Conservancy

It discussed experiences that focused on private lands conservation as an effective tool for biodiversity conservation in Latin America.

Presenters highlighted how these initiatives have supported the development of a regional vision for a landscape-scale conservation, which includes strengthening public-private partnership and the use of economic and legal mechanisms to increase private protected areas.

The presentations discussed issues like “Private and Public Sector Cooperation for Land Conservation” , “What is Private/Communal Lands Conservation?” as a process for learning and working with the identification and the implementation of alternatives for sustainable use and conservation of private/communal lands, “Forest Reserve Quota Regulation” dealing with the possibility to compensate legal reserve for other areas with equal ecological importance for those who do not have the minimum legal reserve area required by law, and “The Role of Private Lands Conservation for the Biodiversity”, giving prominence to the RPPN, a Brazilian tool to protect private lands, where the landowner transform his property in a protected area, recognized by the government. The RPPN increases the number and area of legal protected areas, protects endangered species, connects natural landscape and contributes with research that will provide better understanding about the environment. Today, there are 718 RPPNs in Brasil, protecting 530 thousand hectares.

The conclusions of this side event are:

- The conservation of private and communal lands contribute for the improvement of the quality of life for the local rural population;
- The private lands conservation activities strengthen and contribute with the consolidation of the protected areas national systems;
- The government’s commitment in creating protected areas and the effective management of such areas are important;
- There is great opportunity to improve the private lands conservation practices and the effective protection of private and communal reserves with the exchange of experiences between several Latin American countries;
- This exchange is a key to a rural and regional vision for biodiversity conservation development;
- The implementation and validation of legal and economic tools that encourage conservation on private and communal lands are fundamental;
- The commitment of the CDB parties should include this challenge.

Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN)

The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV)

The Curitiba Declaration of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) Curitiba, Brazil, 28 March 2006

We, Indigenous Women, from Africa, Asia, Arctic, North and Latin America, Pacific and Russia affirm our cultures, traditions, values, our views of life, and ways of being, which to a great extent are retained in our languages and are essential and fundamental for the protection, promotion and development of the world's biodiversity.

We have worked together with the guidance of the spirit of our ancestors in Curitiba, Brazil, upon the traditional lands of the Kaingang and Guarani Peoples. Within the framework of our active participation at the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP8) we, the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) wish to present the following:

We remind the Parties that Indigenous women have a vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and in regards to maintaining Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, cultures and languages, which we pass on from generation to generation. Indigenous women are concerned that inappropriate policies cause resource abuse, climate change, foster extractive industries, and over-harvesting all resulting in the continued loss of biodiversity. This biodiversity loss causes grave social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, and health problems for Indigenous Peoples.

The full and effective participation of Indigenous Women is critical so that we are active participants and decision-makers at every stage in the development and implementation of the programs of work and decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in accordance with COP Decision VI/10. In this regard, we call for capacity-building, especially on communication and awareness on the CBD processes and relevant international instruments. We call upon the Executive Secretary to ensure the inclusion of, and the effective participation by, Indigenous Women.

Youth

We recognize the role of Indigenous youth and their interests in learning and participating in the CBD and related processes. We call upon the Parties and the CBD Secretariat to support their full and effective participation and empower them to be key participants in decision-making for the benefit of future generations.

Traditional Knowledge

We demand respect, recognition and protection of the right to the free prior informed consent of Indigenous Peoples regarding access to our traditional knowledge and benefit sharing, especially when Indigenous women are involved. Traditional Indigenous knowledge is held sacred by our peoples and is indivisible and inalienable.

Indigenous women have a role in the transmission of knowledge from the past to future generations. This link ensures the strengthening of our cultural values and our cosmovisions. These values support the empowerment of governance mechanisms, sustainable trade and economic systems. In this regard, Indigenous women should be protected from global forces of commercial and capitalist encroachment that colonizes Indigenous systems of economic, political, social and cultural governance.

Access and Benefit-Sharing

The traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of Indigenous women are vast. Our specialized experience has made us midwives, spiritual leaders, healers, herbalists and botanists within our peoples and beyond. Our knowledge, use and control of medicinal plants must be protected from misuse and misappropriation, including studies, research and commercialization efforts. We recognize that Indigenous knowledge has contributed to humanity in regards to food security and via the many Indigenous medicines used throughout the world. We are opposed to any attempts from the outside to commercialize and profit from our knowledge and resources. Our right to keep collecting, saving and exchanging our natural seeds must be protected. This is how we have been able to feed our peoples for generations. Accordingly, we oppose Terminator Technology and see it as a threat to our fundamental right to food. Indigenous women are the key providers of food and have a crucial role in protecting our natural food resources in order to overcome poverty and hunger.

Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions

Indigenous women reaffirm their commitment to the work on Article 8(j) and its related provisions.
We are aware that a lot of work lies ahead and that it is crucial for the Parties to ensure the continuity of the Article 8(j) Working Group. The full and effective participation of Indigenous women in all aspects of the activities of this working group must be guaranteed.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

Indigenous Peoples have prioritized communication, education, and public awareness in our programme of work. Indigenous women are responsible for many of the daily activities in our communities, including the education of our children. Therefore, we are committed to continue this work and need to be included at all levels

Armed Conflict, Militarization, Refugees

Indigenous women have been seriously affected by colonialism, armed conflict, resettlement and forced displacement from our communities by discriminatory laws or lack of enforcement of laws. In regions where conflicts exist, we are the first victims of the destruction of biodiversity and our natural resources.

Climate Change, Dry Lands, and Displacement

The industrial activities that have affected global warming, have caused prolonged draughts in arid and semi-arid areas causing loss of life and disrupting nomadic ways of life. Furthermore, climate change is causing the melting of the arctic ice, a rising of the sea-level, causing flooding of lands and islands. These factors have exacerbated poverty and turned many Indigenous Peoples, especially women and children, into environmental refugees. This results in our involuntary relocation, having to leave our communities and take on the task of building new communities elsewhere.

Research

Indigenous women should not only be included in research, but be active leaders in research projects that take place on our lands and territories, concern our knowledge, or impact our lives and livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples have the right to free prior informed consent (FPIC) before any research projects commences and this principle must be applied for the duration of any research project. Indigenous women must be key decision-makers in FPIC processes. Research should empower Indigenous women and contribute to our capacity-building. We especially have a role in identifying the indicators for biodiversity loss at the local, national, regional, and international levels. Researchers, corporations, educational institutions, government or others conducting research must fully and entirely inform Indigenous Peoples regarding the purposes of their research and recognize our right to refuse to participate.

Indigenous women are ready to take our part of the responsibility in addressing these concerns, and the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) will work to this end, but we require that appropriate information sharing take place at all levels. We must be provided with the necessary capacity-building in order to enable us to take on this responsibility All parties should take every necessary step to protect, preserve and maintain the world's biological diversity.

Ms. Viviana Figueroa and Ms. Sofia Gutierrez (CBD Focal Point for Women) among other participants to the side event.
Photo courtesy of: Ms. Viviana Figueroa

Miriam Anne Frank (from The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples) and members of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN)
Photo courtesy of: Ms. Viviana Figueroa

Biotrade: Incentives for Biodiversity Business

UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative and its developing country parties.

The workshop on "Verifying Biodiversity Trade" brought together approximately 60 people from the private sector, NGOs, and intergovernmental organisations to explore options for verifying the sustainability of biodiversity-based businesses. This is particularly relevant to the COP 8 agenda items on incentives, private sector engagement and the 2010 targets. It is also directly relevant to the promotion of sustainable and equitable trade through CITES and the WTO Doha Agenda. Specifically, the participants call on the Parties to (a) support the integration of biodiversity into existing ethical certification processes, (b) strengthen the role of trade promotion initiatives in support of BioTrade, (c) finance much-needed biodiversity product development, and (d) build greater consumer awareness of biodiversity-benefiting businesses. By making trade work for biodiversity, bio-entrepreneurs can become key actors in conservation and poverty alleviation.

The co-organisers of the workshop included the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), PhytoTrade Africa, Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN Bolivia), Alexander von Humboldt Institute (Colombia), Corporación de Promoción de Exportaciones e Inversiones (Ecuador), Comisión para la Promoción de las Exportaciones (Prompex, Peru), the Peruvian Institute for Natural Products, the Uganda Export Promotion Board, the Rainforest Alliance, the Marine Aquarium Council, ECL AP, and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development.

Together, the representatives from these organizations and others explored options for verifying biotrade. Bio-Trade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. The challenge we face is verifying whether trade in biodiversity-based products is working for biodiversity.

The workshop addressed this issue in the context of the 2010 targets, specifically goal 4 on promoting sustainable use and consumption and target 4.1 on ensuring that biodiversity-based products are derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and their production areas are managed consistently with the conservation of biodiversity. Bio-entrepreneurs have a key role to play in meeting the 2010 targets.

Session 1 looked at BioTrade principles & criteria and the challenges of implementation & verification. Companies described their experiences in integrating these principles and criteria into their business models and into the development of their value chains. This experience has shown that it is possible to develop working matrixes that can be used as practical guides and ensure equitable stakeholder involvement.

Session 2 focused on whether small & medium biodiversity businesses recognise a need for biodiversity certification. Within the market, it is clear that there is a need for differentiation to show which companies and products comply with the BioTrade principles. This differentiation, however, should not be an additional burden to these companies and the communities in which they operate.

Session 3 explored existing biodiversity-related certification schemes. Development of a new biodiversity certification scheme is clearly not the right approach. Rather further opportunities to integrate BioTrade principles into existing schemes need to be explored. In this context, a adaptive critical path approach should be adopted, which leaves more flexibility for differing biodiversity-business conditions.

Finally, in session 4 there was a roundtable discussion on biodiversity, business and trade. The participants recognised the critical need for the Parties to the CBD and other relevant international agreements, such as CITES, Ramsar and the WTO, to promote market incentives, strengthen trade initiatives, finance product developments, and raise consumer awareness so that biodiversity-based businesses are better able to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the alleviation of poverty.

Side Event on Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Participating agencies

Ms. Esther Mwangi- DGEF-facilitating the events.
Ms. Tiina Vahanen- Remarks from FAO representative
Dr. Mamadou Ouattara- IBC/AU- made power point presentation

About the Event:

- 150 Fliers were given out to most delegates from the eight participating countries, and other interested groups on the corridors. Letters to the Ministers had earlier been sent from the ED's office.
- An announcement about the event was made in the Africa Caucus to boost attendance.
- The event was attended by 30-40 people.
- The main presentation was an overview of the project, historical background, and past projects for the FDH, objectives and types of activities. It also explained why the GEF project from past projects in that it is trying to deal with root causes of the degradation of this area. The funding and sources of the US$ 44 million was explained. At the end of the presentation, some 25 pictures from the project area were shown.

Comments and Questions asked:

- Comment from GRASP representative - participating countries happen to also be home to the great apes, and that since the project is on integrated management of all natural resources in the area, great apes should be highly considered.
- Gambia CBD Focal Point asked about collaboration with institutions on the ground- and how widespread this was. He expressed concern that often big projects ignore local institutions.
- There was a question on the Ministerial Conference- and how it operates, and what lessons can be learnt by other similar multi-country initiatives. - The answer given was that this project has many levels. The Ministerial conference chaired by Mali meets once ever two years- and is instrumental in making sure their countries secure co-funding for the project, and giving the project the highest profile possible.
- Comment: Other initiatives in Africa of a similar magnitude include The Nile Basin initiative that involves 10 countries, the Kagera River Basin.
- A question was asked on access to markets for the communities involved in income generating activities within the project- Dr. Ouattara answered that USAID is interested in teaming up with this project for this specific issue. In the audience was a representative
- from USAID who would meet with Dr. Ouattara within the week on this.
- Comment: There are many middlemen such as UNEP, FAO, AU ? in the project- and wondered how much of the 44 million will eventually go to the actual work on the ground and how much would go to the middle-

men. FAO said that their role is technical backup- and would not be getting any funds from the project. UNEP explained that as an implementing agency of the GEF, there are standing arrangements between UNEP and the GEF for the role, not just for this project but in general.

For more information, please contact:

Esther Mwangi Ph.D
Task Manager, Biodiversity Enabling Actvities, UNEP-DGEF
UN Avenue, Gigiri UN Complex,Block P Room No. 110
Box 30552- Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-20-7623717
Fax: 254-20-7624268
Email: esther.mwangi@unep.org

Coherent Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) – UNEP's Approach to Enhancing Compliance and Enforcement of MEAs, Supported by the Issue-based Modules

United Nations Environment Programme/ Division of Environment Conventions

The side event was opened by Arnold Jacques de Dixmude, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.

Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions, introduced the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as well as the draft UNEP Manual on Compliance and Enforcement. Her presentation highlighted the reasons behind the development of the Guidelines and its contents and follow-up activities intended to implement the Guidelines. With this, she tried to demonstrate through various activities undertaken by UNEP how synergies and interlinkages can work in practice through implementation of MEAs based on clustering or cross-cutting issues (biodiversity-related or chemical and waste-related) and by issue-based modules (inland waters, protected areas, invasive alien species etc).

Peter Herkenrath, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, introduced the UNEP Issue-based Modules for Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity Conventions. These modules organize the implementation commitments from articles, decisions and resolutions of MEAs under thematic issues (currently biodiversity and climate change, inland waters, invasive alien species, and sustainable use) and make them available over the Internet and on CD, currently in English, French and Russian. The modules intend to support MEA implementation and stimulate cooperation at the national level.

Tone Solhaug, Ministry of Environment, Norway, reflected on the use of the Issue-based Modules in Norway, one of the pilot countries. She stated that the thematic clustering of relevant decisions provides a logical framework for use at the national level. She explained that the language being used by the modules makes the MEA decisions more accessible. Alexander Shestakov, WWF Russia, described how the Issue-based Modules have been used in Russia, another pilot country. MEA implementation is severely hampered by the lack of capacity, and the modules help build capacity through, for example, their use in staff training. Shestakov stated that a mechanism for regularly updating the modules is essential. Bakary Kante, UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions, expressed his appreciation for the preliminary results of the Issue-based Modules project as well as his concern over the need for funding to maintain and further develop the modules.

The discussion highlighted the problems with Internet access in developing countries, affecting the use of information that supports MEA implementation. The UNEP Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines as well as the Issue-based Modules were noted as useful tools for a synergistic approach to MEA implementation at the national level as well as for making national reporting less burdensome. Some country delegates were keen to know how their countries could participate in or benefit from the on-going synergistic approaches to MEA implementation.

Protecting Shareholder and Natural Value: The Role of the Financial Sector in the Protection of Biodiversity

UNEP FI, FAUNA and Flora International, Insight Investment

Overview

Recent years have seen increasing pressure on the finance sector to address environmental risks within their investment portfolios. Well-publicized cases such as the Three Gorges Dam and Asia Pulp and Paper have led to scrutiny of banking practices with respect to biodiversity issues. The launch of the Equator Principles in 2003 and the Collevecchio Declaration in 2003 have also raised the profile of environmental issues within the finance sector. A number of international banks now have specific policies addressing biodiversity impacts and within a few leading members of the mainstream finance sector, as well as a number of companies, biodiversity has been identified as one of a number of sustainable development issues that could impact on shareholder value.

This session considered the current trends for evaluating biodiversity risk within the finance sector, and aimed to raise awareness amongst COP participants of the work currently being undertaken within the finance sector to evaluate investments with impacts on biodiversity. The session focused on a specific tool developed by Insight Investment and Fauna & Flora International to benchmark 36 companies within the extractive sector on their biodiversity impact and risk identification processes, and the tools they have in place to manage them. The session examined the impact of such a tool within the companies subjected to the benchmark and its potential uptake within the finance sector as a whole. This event acted as a precursor to a more in depth analysis of the finance sector's role in managing biodiversity on 23rd and 24th March.

Agenda

18:15 Session chair opening remarks
Isaura Frondizi, Director, Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development

18:20 The Finance sector and Biodiversity – an overview
Christopher Wells, ABN AMRO – Banco Real

18:45 Benchmarking company management of biodiversity impacts
Annelisa Grigg, Director of Corporate Affairs, Fauna & Flora International
Kerry ten Kate, Director, Insight Investment

19:15 Panel discussion considering the impact of such tools. Panelists include:
Dr. Arthur Eijs, Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning & the Environment, Netherlands
Roy Hathaway, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
Andrew Parsons, International Council for Mining and Metals, Deric Quaile, Shell/IUCN

Marcio Macedo Costa, BNDES
José Pedro de Oliveira Costa, Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve
Rachel Biderman, Getulio Vargas Studies Centre

Deutsche Bank

19:45 Drinks, sponsored by

Session summary

- The financial sector has adopted a more progressive approach to sustainable development over the last 10 years and interest in biodiversity and finance issues is now significant. Financial institutions such as ABN AMRO and Insight Investment have biodiversity-specific lending and investment practices that promote and reward biodiversity good practice within the industry.
- It is no longer free to pollute or damage biodiversity. These externalities are gradually internalized as a result of improved and better-enforced regulation. Biodiversity risk management is therefore very important to the industry. From a financial sector perspective, the risks faced by their client companies translate into risk of loan default, collateral devaluation, shareholder risk and reputational risk.
- On the opportunity side, financial institutions such as ABN AMRO, in partnership with development or environmental funds, are able to provide financing at advantageous rates to companies improving their environmental performance. New business models appear that have biodiversity or climate change mitigation as a core part of their value proposition.
- The biodiversity benchmark developed by Insight Investment in partnership with Fauna & Flora International is a comprehensive framework that provides investors with appropriately framed information to consider biodiversity in their investment decisions and an objective and consistent basis for shareholder engagement.
- The benchmark examines the comparative biodiversity risk exposure and management of companies within the extractive and utility sectors. Publicly available data is complemented with additional information provided by the companies on the main elements of governance structures; policy and strategy; management and implementation; assurance and reporting; and leadership.
- Results of the 2005 benchmarking exercise suggest that even if significant areas of weakness remain, 2004 scores were improved in all sectors. Early feedback suggest that from a company perspective, the benchmark is indeed a powerful driver of improved biodiversity performance, strengthening the business case and providing a logical framework in both the development and audit of their biodiversity management processes.
- Next steps could include the expansion of the benchmark to include companies listed in other markets including emerging markets, the inclusion of supply-chains, and the addition of on-the-ground audit information. Over the coming weeks FFI, Insight Investment and UNEP FI will be working on a proposal that will capitalize on the strengths of the benchmark and develop it further.

For more information, please contact:
Email: biodiversity@unepfi.org

UNEP Finance Initiative
Innovative financing for sustainability

FAUNA & FLORA International

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The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership- Progressing Towards 2010

UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre)

The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership side event, chaired by Jon Hutton, Director UNEP-WCMC, presented progress in the development of a full range of 2010 biodiversity indicators, and the establishment of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to more effectively deliver these indicators into policy fora. There were four key presentations, followed by discussion.

Neville Ash, UNEP-WCMC, presented on the establishment of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and explained how the Partnership brings together the organisations working on the range of 2010 biodiversity indicators to deliver the best available information on tracking progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Linda Colette, FAO, spoke on the FAO contribution to the Partnership, and specifically highlighted the potential for developing genetic-level indicators of biodiversity change, which have been absent to date in the assessment of trends in global biodiversity.

Noëlle Kümpel, The Zoological Society of London, presented IUCN's work on species indicators, including the Red List Index, which is being further developed to contribute to many of the CBD 2010 focal areas.

Gordon McInnes, European Environment Agency (EEA), described the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010) project and outlined the links between the global 2010BIP and the regional SEBI2010 in Europe.

Discussions included the importance of linking the work of the 2010BIP to a broader policy arena, noting the 2010BIP will facilitate collaboration between the biodiversity-related conventions. A number of Parties present at the side event noted the importance of the 2010BIP in providing information for their use at the global level, but also in helping to guide their indicator development work at the national level.

Robert Hoft, CBD Secretariat, noted the opportunities for the work on global indicators within the Partnership supporting national and regional indicator initiatives, including through inputs to regional 2010 workshops.

Although widely supported, concern was expressed about the adequacy of funding for the Partnership to fully achieve its aims and objectives.

The side event began at 1:15PM and was closed at 3PM. A film "Patrimonio - Removing Pigs from a New Zealand Island" was shown as a warm up to the event; 45 participants attended and the room was filled to capacity.

The side even was run by Marc Patry (WHC) who made a presentation entitled "Conservation action via the World Heritage Convention – a report to the CBD COP 8" which covered the following; facts about the World Heritage Convention; one of the 5 biodiversity conventions; 180 signatories, 148 natural sites inscribed for biodiversity values; 89 WH forest sites, totalling 70,000,000 ha (~1.3 x size of France); a summary of the listing and In Danger listing process and benefits of WH designation.

A graph of international assistance provided by the WH Fund was presented as well as a list of major WH Centre projects; a map was also presented indicating the locations of the US $40 million portfolio of projects.

The natural heritage thematic programmes were presented including some of the World Heritage Forest programme highlights, i.e. the two major international meetings; Berastagi Indonesia 1998, 'Filling Gaps' and Nancy, France 2005 'Landscape Level Intervention'. A map of all the WH Forest sites was shown and the technical paper series was also presented in the context of the standard setting roll of the Centre and UNESCO. The second technical paper on WH Forests is due later this year.

The WH marine programme, was mentioned with 30 WH sites with marine coastal components, and the dedicated effort within the WH Centre to identify and inscribe best marine PAs on WH list.

The WH Sustainable Tourism Programme's three fundamental objectives were given as; building public use management capacity; promoting local benefits and engaging the tourism industry

The comparative advantages of the convention were presented followed by some specific examples;
- Easily understood by broad audience – site based conservation.
- High nat'l and int'l drawing power (media, donors, politicians).
- Strict reporting obligations, with peer group monitoring and evaluation.
- Listing is politically attractive.
- Danger listing and risk of losing status results in leverage

International Diplomacy – Democratic Republic of Congo
- Strong WH presence throughout conflict
- WH dialogues with MONUC
- Effective pressure on neighbouring states
- Major donor Conference Drawing Broader Financial Support Congo Basin

- Previous WH work through Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative - UNF
- French GEF (FFEM) financing bushmeat trade management component

Drawing Political Attention - Honduras
- Site in Danger
- Meetings with cabinet
- 10 point plan
- On-going dialogue

Examples of donor and industry recognition were given as below;
- UNF: WH = conservation priority for $/£/€
- ICMM: WH = no-go areas
- Shell Int'l: WH = no-go areas
- CI: $7.5M matching commitment
- FFI – Rapid Response Facility
- GS: No financial support for projects in WH sites

Invited participants from Shell International and from the International Council on Mines and Metals (ICMM) made statements in regards to their commitments to WH site.

The conclusions drawn from the above were that the World Heritage Centre is diversifying ways in which the WH Convention is used to promote conservation; and that the WH Convention is not just a "beauty contest", but a powerful tool to convene in-situ biodiversity conservation action

The presentation next turned to the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)- for natural World Heritage Sites under threat.

Alison Gunn, from Fauna and Flora International, stated the problem: slow response to emergencies and disasters (natural and man-made) e.g. 10 months for bi/multilateral funding to arrive in the Galapagos post-oilspill in 2001.

Major problems occurring in natural World Heritage Sites include encroachment, natural disasters, illegal road building and intensive poaching for bushmeat; which often occur within a backdrop of providing protection to critically endangered wildlife populations, such as the northern white rhino, tiger, Asian elephant etc

Slow responses to urgent threats mean precious natural world heritage may be irreparably damaged or lost.

A solution is a mechanism that mobilizes finances rapidly, flexibly and in real time to achieve substantial impacts in the field and assist potential and inscribed natural World Heritage sites in short term emergencies whilst providing support in reaching sustainable solutions for longer term threats.

The RRF is a partnership between United Nations Foundation, World Heritage Centre and Fauna & Flora International – FFI, and is based at FFI HQ. The RRF offers small grants (up to 30,000 USD) to threatened

natural World Heritage Sites (and in exceptional circumstances to sites on countries tentative lists. Decisions on submitted applications are provided within eight working days and money can be on the ground within three weeks.

Since January the RRF has received ten enquiries, mostly from NGOs. Five formal applications have been received from sites such as Kahuzi-Beiga National Park, DRC (in the 'in Danger' list) and Kerinci-Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. The average turn around time for decisions has been 5.5 working days and so far one grant has been placed in Virunga National Park, DRC.

The RRF is in a pilot phase so learning is continually being extracted and incorporated into processes. The RRF is learning about what applicants need from financing mechanisms, apart from money i.e. support in writing proposals, links to more partners, links to researchers etc., and is improving the quick application process.

The RRF wishes to increase links to NGOs, development agencies and other players in emergency situations to ensure the environment is considered post-disaster / emergency.

The RRF aims to place 10-12 small grants through pilot phase (2005 - 2007) whilst actively fundraising for a future larger mechanism to widen impacts and support a wider audience.

Presentation of the New Postgraduate Education Programme "Management of Protected Areas"

University of Klagenfurt (Austria)

Bernd Pfleger, University of Klagenfurt, explains the goals of this postgraduate programme.
Photo courtesy of: University of Klagenfurt (Austria)

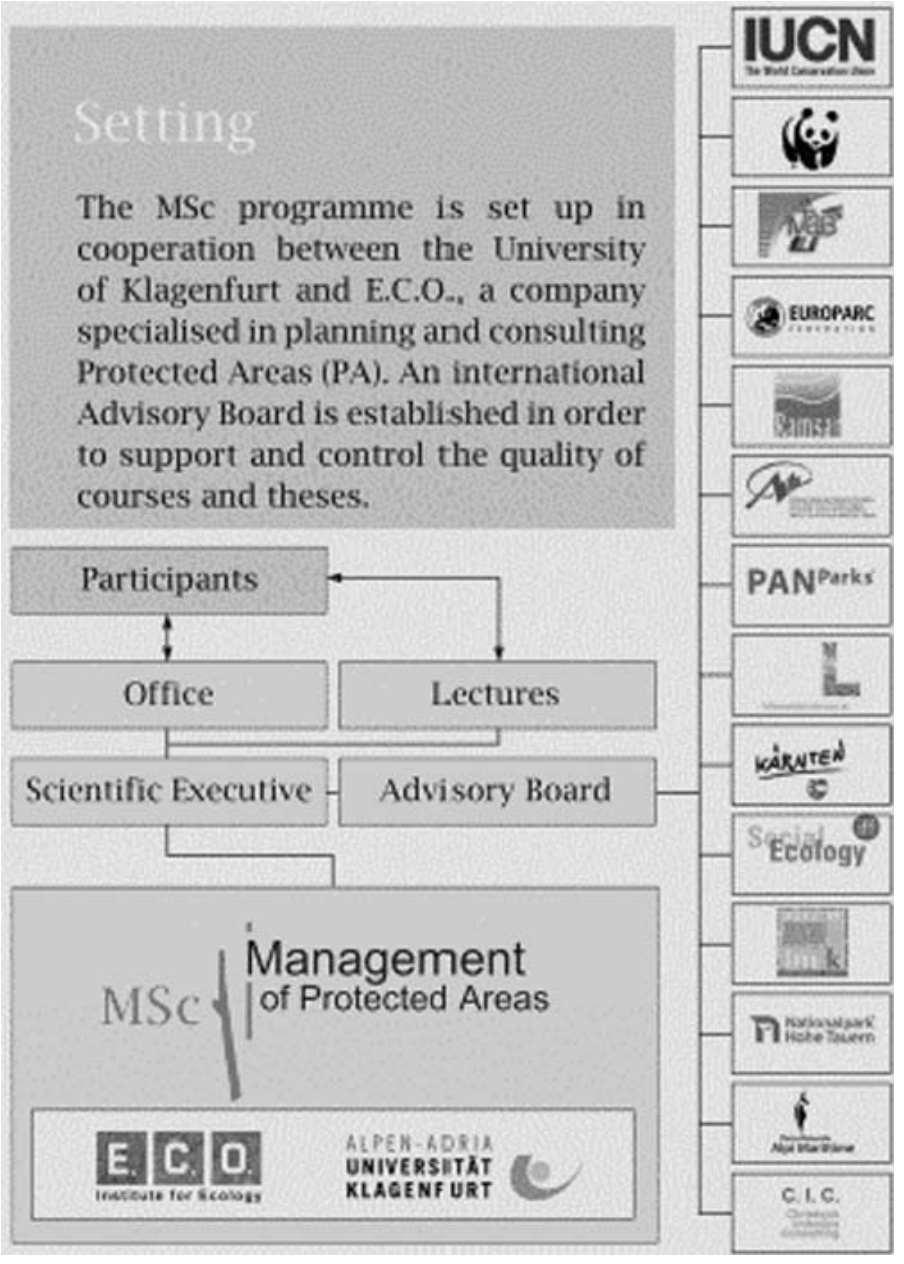
Providing an overview of the new international Master of Science Programme "Management of Protected Areas", Bernd Pfleger, University of Klagenfurt, first described the setting of this course (Fig. 1). Established by the University of Klagenfurt and the company E.C.O. in cooperation with international organisations (such as CBD, IUCN, WWF), the learning goals are to gain all relevant skills for planning and managing protected areas. The focus lies inter alia at the integration of socio-cultural, economic and ecological aspects and on European and international categories of protected areas. The whole programme takes two years and the first term deals with the theoretical and scientific fundamentals, e.g. basics of management, ecological economics, ecology and sociology. The terms 2 and 3 focus on practical aspects ("toolbox" and best practice) of the management of protected areas and in the 4th term the master thesis has to be written. "The whole programme is organised in nine blocks, lasting from three to 11 days, so that it is additionally possible to stay in employment." clarified Bernd Pfleger. The blocks take place at different prominent protected areas in Central and Eastern Europe and between these modules the participants have to deepen their knowledge through different assignments.

Finally, Mr. Pfleger highlighted some experiences since the beginning of the programme in October 2005. It started with 21 participants from seven European and Asian countries with different educational and professional backgrounds. Remarkable are for instance the large amount of synergies and benefits through the diverse group of participants. This leads on the other hand to a lot of different expectations concerning the content of the lectures.

During the final discussion questions about the possible scholarships were raised, the international recognition was confirmed, and some lecturers were presented. Moreover, the experiences were explained and discussed in more detail.

More Information:
www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at

For further information, please contact::
Bernd Pfleger <BerndPfleger@web.de>



Setting of the MSc Programme „Management of Protected Areas“. Photo courtesy of: University of Klagenfurt

Sabedores – Sabedoras Recognition of Indigenous Identity and Ancestral Knowledge as a Means of Defending Amazonia and the Environment

University of Strathclyde and University of St. Andrews (Centre of Religion & Politics - CSRP) - Sabedores-Sabedoras Project

Speakers:

Professor Blanca de Corredor: Anthropologist, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Coordinator (Colombia) Project Sabedores-Sabedoras, Management of the Forest; Coordinator, (Colombia) Darwin Initiative Project "Conservation and sustainable Management of the Amazon forest and Várzea"; Associate researcher, Centre of Religion & Politics – CSRP, University of St. Andrews. President of AICSE (Asociación para la Investigación Científica Sociocultural y Ecológica).

Dr. Ann Mitchell: Pharmacist/Microbiologist, International Coordinator Project Sabedores-Sabedoras, Management of the Forest. Coordinator, Darwin Initiative Project Conservation and sustainable Management of the Amazon forest and Várzea; Honorary Research Fellow in Divinity and Associate researcher, Centre of Religion & Politics – CSRP, University of St. Andrews. Vice - President of AICSE (Asociación para la Investigación Científica Sociocultural y Ecológica).

Sabedor Isaías Román Sánchez: Sabedor, Uitoto ethnic group, language Uitoto, dialect Nipode, Clan Enókayai, Caquetá Medio, Araracuara, Caquetá, Colombia.

Sabedor Manoel Fernandez Moura: President Federação Indigena pela Unificacao e Paz Mundial, Brazil - President – Manoel Fernándes Moura (FIUPAM), Brazil.

Sabedores – Sabedoras: Recognition of indigenous identity and ancestral knowledge as a means of defending Amazonia and the environment

This side event was centred round the presentation of results of an on-going project entitled Sabedores – Sabedoras – Management of the Amazon Rainforest and the current Darwin Initiative[1] project: "Conservation and sustainable Management of the Amazon forest and Várzea" led by Blanca de Corredor, Ann Mitchell and Alexander Gray with the sabedores-sabedoras of indigenous groups in the Colombian, Brazilian, Peruvian, Ecuadorian Amazon. The project involves: research, exchange of knowledge, workshops, and education.

[1] The Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species seeks to help safeguard the world's biodiversity by drawing on British strengths in this area to assist those countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources. It was announced at the Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

Location of Present and past work in the Colombian rainforest: The present work is based on more than 20 years of research with the sabedores[2] and leaders of ethnic groups in the Caquetá Medio region of the Colombian Amazon rainforest built up by the initiators of the project sabedores-sabedoras – Blanca de Corredor and Ann Mitchell together with the sabedores-as of the Amazon rainforest. Present work is based in the Amazon capital, Leticia and surrounding areas including frontier with Peru and Brazil. Work has recently been extended to include Ecuador.

The title of the photograph is: "Photograph of River Amazonas, Colombia during the drought of 2005". Photo courtesy of: University of Strathclyde and University of St. Andrews

Ethnic groups: The team of investigators works with the sabedores (as) and leaders of many ethnic groups including: Uitoto, Muinane, Andoke, Miraña, Bora, Nonuya, Tikuna, Cocama, Yagua, Tukano Orientale, Quechua, Mayuruna, Muynami, Tukano and Shuar (Provincia Pastaza, Ecuador).

Institutions and organisations: Institutions involved in the research work done by the project Sabedores-Sabedoras include: University of Strathclyde, UK, University of St. Andrews, UK (Centre of Religion & Politics – CSRP, University of St. Andrews); Indigenous organizations: Colombia: ACITAM [3] , AZCAITA [4] ; Brazil: FIUPAM, INBRAPI [5] ; Banco de la República (Cultural Section) Leticia

Politics of this project

The politics of this project are based on the comprehension of pueblos and the union or exchange of knowledge/expertise of sustainable management of the ecosystem. In order to achieve these objectives it is necessary bridge the differences in cultures to enable comprehension and tolerance between them. In the continent of South America we have the problems generated on a local and world-wide scale. The project: Sabedores – sabedoras has the general philosophy of working towards the defence of the environment, patrimony of pueblos, Nations in a worldwide context.

Methodology:

A participative methodology is used in which traditional and academic knowledge of preservation and recuperation of the biodiversity of the tropical forest and várzea is exchanged and woven together. Knowledge is understood as the science which is dedicated to the two methodologies – academic and practical (traditional).

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[2] Sabedores – as: indigenous wise men or wise ladies who, from conception/birth, have gained expert knowledge of plants, traditions such as medicines, managing the environment by following careers (e.g. dance, medicine, basket making). These careers are profound and can last as long as forty-five years

[3] ACITAM - Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Trapecio Amazónico
[4] AZCAITA - Asociación Zonal de Consejo de Autoridad de Tradición Autóctono
[5] INBRAPI - Instituto Indígena Brasileiro para Propriedade Intelectual

The union of these two different types of expertise can achieve the result of prevention of degradation of biodiversity. Workshops are held in the cultural section of the Banco de la República, Leticia with the objective of exchange of expertise and knowledge between UK specialists, sabedores, leaders and institutions. An important output of these workshops is cohesion of communities and formation of action plans for conservation of biodiversity. Practical workshops are also held in field locations such as the resguardo Santa Sofia to work on projects such as formation of medicinal plant gardens and preparation of education material. Planned future work would use the latest technology to localise and map environmental damage.

Discussion and short presentation by Sabedor Manoel Fernandez Moura: President FIUPAM, Brazil.
As a final part of this presentation, Manoel Fernandez Moura, commented that he confirmed the views of the presentation and read out a letter written by himself and the Vice President of FIUPAM, Rodolfo Araucano. The letter pointed out that Articles 8 (j) and 10c of the CBD imply that that the millenary knowledge of the indigenous nations and their traditional knowledge and the relatively recent traditional knowledge of local communities are of equal importance. Sabedor Manoel emphasised that the latter, although important, cannot be described as equivalent to the in-depth knowledge of the indigenous pueblos.

Urgency of continuation of this Work: The sabedores, institutions and researchers in this project are particularly motivated to continue this work, but funding is needed. Much of the knowledge is held by the few existing sabedores and even during the period of this project one of the most important contributors to this work, sabedor Edison Rivas, died last year. The project includes the four countries Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador and it is vital to maintain the impact of this work, especially considering the startling scenes of the drought produced in 2004 and more seriously in 2005 as a result of deforestation and climate change. We have no doubt that the sabedores have a wealth of expertise which can be shared in the fight to preserve the biodiversity of the planet. It important to give them credit for this and to combine their great knowledge with our modern technology. As stated by Manoel Fernandez Moura at the end of this report, the knowledge held by sabedores who have followed lifetime careers of management of the environment must be distinguished from the also valuable but not nearly so profound practical knowledge held by many local communities.

Acknowledgements:

The project team would like to thank all the sabedores, leaders, institutions who have put in so much voluntary work into this project. This work could not have been achieved or with such a wide forming impact without the support of the Darwin Initiative.

Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing Needs

United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies

The importance of capacity building for realization of the CBD's objectives on ABS was recognized by the COP in its adoption of an Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing at COP 6 in The Hague in 2002. The Action Plan seeks to galvanize to promote increased capacity development on ABS. Of the 188 parties to the CBD only 14 countries have notified the Secretariat of their ABS Competent National Authorities and 43 of their National ABS Focal Point. Recent global surveys of ABS measures have estimated that only 60 countries have implemented or started developing national ABS frameworks. Even for those countries that have developed ABS measures, many have encountered significant challenges in securing their effective implementation. Development and implementation of ABS law and policy has highlighted continuing ABS capacity gaps.

In determining the level of response by the international community to meet these needs a recent study identifies a mere 40 ABS capacity development initiatives carried out between January 1995 and January 2006. UNU-IAS own survey of support provided by the international community has also found a large gap between needs and support. To respond to the challenges, greater collaboration to develop a more comprehensive approach to ABS capacity development is needed. This workshop provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the challenges relating to ABS capacity development, and the national and regional priorities of different countries. Regions represented included Central Asia and Mongolia, ASEAN, the Pacific and the country of Brazil. The workshop encouraged the sharing of ideas on how to strengthen and support national and regional efforts in a manner which most effectively responds to the COP's ABS Capacity Building Action Plan.

This workshops involved six speakers: Raman Letchumanan of ASEAN Secretariat, Shirin Karryeva from Central Asia and Mongolia, Cindy Ehmes from the Pacific Islands, Eduardo Zelez from Brazil and UNU-IAS Brendan Tobin and Sam Johnston. The workshop was attended by 60 participants. Much information has been gathered in a draft report on the capacity building needs and priorities of these regions. It provides a good baseline for the countries and other agencies in seeking to develop capacity in developing countries to implement the Bonn Guidelines on ABS.

For more information, please contact:
Wendy Elliott
Programme Associate – Biodiplomacy Initiative
UNU-IAS
Elliott@ias.unu.edu

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Networking

United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies

This roundtable brought together 22 representatives from ABS capacity building organizations ranging from IUCN, IDDRI, SPDA, Kew Gardens, UNDP-GEF, and IUCN. Brendan Tobin, UNU/IAS, opened the roundtable discussions by explaining that the university was working on capacity building proposals in Africa, Central Asia and Mongolia, the Andean community, and ASEAN and the Pacific Islands countries on ABS capacity building. He invited participants to share ideas relating to capacity building mapping aimed at synthesizing available materials and identifying gaps. He asked if there was utility in collecting information and the possibility of going further and establishing a coordinating group. On the issue of tools for repatriating knowledge and materials (reverse access) one participant noted that local communities require access to materials in gene banks and botanical gardens. He added that to enhance food security and stimulate economic activity it was essential to address this in the context of ABS capacity building.

Disagreeing on the need for capacity building networking, another participant cautioned against the danger of institutions becoming homogenous and losing the advantage of diversity. He also added that the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) could adequately respond to the issues being addressed. In response, a participant stated that the CHM was primarily an information depository and did not provide added value, further stating that material was not updated or processed. He asked about the feasibility of improving the CHM. Another participant observed that expertise to enhance in-country capacity is required rather than more toolkits. He also said the ABS issue had become so politicized that donors were reluctant to fund projects, adding that many decision makers have not decided which direction to take in terms of facilitating access or putting up barriers. He remarked that ABS was not a priority for many countries, and that issues such as community based forest management and human-wildlife conflict took precedence. Following up from this meeting UNU-IAS is considering an analytical study of ABS capacity building projects similar to the UNU-IAS Biosafety Assessment. This event was covered by the Earth Negotiations Bulleting – On the Side.

For more information, please contact:
Wendy Elliott
Programme Associate – Biodiplomacy Initiative
UNU-IAS
Elliott@ias.unu.edu

Conservation of Satoyama (Traditional Rural Landscape): Experiences from Ishikawa, Japan and Paraná, Brazil

United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC)

Speakers:

Alphonse Kambu, Director, IICRC
Henk Simons, Senior Advisor Biodiversity, Netherlands Committee for IUCN [http://www.iucn.nl/]
Koji Nakamura, Professor, Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology / Faculty of Science, Kanazawa University [http://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/], Japan
Paulo Roberto Castella, Project Coordinator, Secretary of the Environment, the State of Paraná [http://pr.gov.br/sema], Brazil

Summary:

On 29 March 2006, Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre [http://www.ias.unu.edu/special/special.cfm] (IICRC) and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies [http://www.ias.unu.edu] (UNU-IAS) convened a side event entitled: "Conservation of Satoyama (Traditional Rural Landscape): Experiences from Ishikawa, Japan and Paraná, Brazil" during the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Brazil, to compare and contrast the experiences of Japan and Brazil. The side event introduced the concept, values and problems of satoyama and attempted to explore ways in which the problems could be best addressed.

Alphonse Kambu introduced the concept of satoyama, a term in the Japanese language that describes an area consisting of four major ecosystems: agricultural, forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems, and human settlements. He explained that 40 per cent of the total landmass in Japan comprises satoyama. And in Ishikawa Prefecture, 60 percent of the land is said to be satoyama. He also highlighted the importance of satoyama by making specific references to the role of satoyama in the provision of ecosystem services, habitat for biodiversity and source for the development and sustenance of cultural heritage.

In this regard, Henk Simons discussed in greater detail ecosystem services by introducing the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment [http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx] (MA) where he affirmed the significant links between ecosystem services and their benefits to people. He noted that the MA defines ecosystem services as the benefits people derive from ecosystems including provisioning services (such as food, fibre, genetic resources, and clean water), regulating services (such as air quality regulation, erosion control, water purification, and waste treatment), cultural services (including spiritual, religious, artistic, and aesthetic values), and supporting services (for example, nutrient cycling, water cycling, and soil formation). He stressed that biodiversity is fundamental for ecosystems to provide these ecosystem services, adding that ecosystem services relate to various aspects of human well-being. In emphasizing the importance of satoyama, he called

for better informed decision-making to reverse the declining ecosystems of satoyama.

Both Alphonse Kambu and Koji Nakamura noted that despite the significance of satoyama in terms of its contributions to ecosystem services, satoyama is declining in Japan due to neglect as a result of aging population, rural-urban migration, trade for cheaper agricultural and forest products, and science and technological advancement, especially change in consumer preferences for fossil fuels. Moreover, neglect could mean lack of management, and such a trend is seemingly evident in Japan. The implications of the declining satoyama can be associated with threats such as loss of species, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and human well-being. Koji Nakamura further discussed the issue of abandonment of satoyama in Ishikawa Prefecture and Japan, which is causing disasters, especially invasion of bears and monkeys into residential areas and farms that sometimes leads to attacks on humans and destruction of crops.

Paulo Roberto Castella presented the Brazilian experience, especially from the State of Paraná, focusing on Sistema Faxinal no Paraná, a traditional forest management system in Paraná, which consolidates cultural, family, social and economic solidarities among the people. He explained that the system basically divides the forest areas into three parts: 1) criadouro comum, an area where livestock are kept, 2) terras de plantar, where cultivation occurs, and 3) crecas, fences which demarcate these areas, where the areas are vital for the functioning of the forest system. He stressed challenges such as growing population, land degradation and high land costs, mentioning that only 42 of 144 original forest systems remain in the State of Paraná.

Presentations by the speakers and discussion that followed illustrated that the concept of satoyama, its values, problems and the need to address them are not unique to Japan alone, but are common to many other regions of the world including Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania. This is an indication of the universality of satoyama and that it is an issue of common concern and interest to many parts of the world, despite different names for it.

In addition, a crucial question raised during the side event that attracted attention was the issue of land tenure, especially private, public and communal ownership of land and its impact on the sustainable management of satoyama. Ownership issues could be either beneficial or detrimental to management of satoyama depending on the circumstances and practice in the area or country. Participants noted the varying land tenure systems in different countries that can be a challenge in the management of satoyama.

Despite the differences, participants agreed that for the effective management of satoyama it remains to reverse the negative trends and enhance sustainable management of satoyama so that it continues to contribute to ecosystem services and human well-being. An initiative towards the restoration and conservation of satoyama is already evident in the case of Ishikawa, especially in ”Satoyama Nature School” [http://www.satoyama-ac.com/] as was reported by Koji Nakamura. He noted that specific activities such as the control of bamboo expansion, restoration of terraced paddy fields, transfer of traditional knowledge, networking among stakeholders, and long-term monitoring of biodiversity and interaction among organisms in satoyama were already underway in Kanazawa University, where he is from, and play an important role. He also emphasized that long-term strategies are needed to meet nature restoration requirements and human needs, pointing to local initiatives such as direct payment systems, environmentally friendly agriculture and forestry practices, biomass usages, green tourism, and international and regional cooperation.

Some key observations from the side event include:

- Applying the outcomes of MA sub-global assessments for policy-making and implementation for conservation of satoyama at the local and community levels in developing countries where biodiversity of satoyama has been impacted by over-utilization of the natural resources for their livelihoods;
- Conducting sub-global assessments of satoyama in Japan and Brazil to identify the current situation and trend of the ecosystems and ecosystem services and find ways to prevent the negative trend;
- Re-examining land tenure systems to ensure sustainable management and use of satoyama; and,
- Enhancing environmental education to pass the cultural and natural heritage of satoyama to future generations.

For further details, contact:
Alphonse Kambu, Director, IICRC
kambu@ias.unu.edu

Networking for the Advance of Biodiversity Research in Wetlands

United Nations University- Pantanal Regional Environmental Programme (UNU-PREP), United Nations University- Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Conservation International (CI) and Earthwatch

The Pantanal Regional Environmental program of the United Nations University (UNU-PREP) realized a side event during the 8th conference of the signatories parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held from March 20th to 31st, 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. The side event title was: "NETWORKING FOR THE ADVANCE OF BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH IN WETLANDS" and occurred of March 28th. It counted with the participation of UNU-IAS (Alphonse Kambu), Conservation International (George Camargo) – with which CPP-PREP recently signed a cooperation letter- and EarthWatch (Ellen Wang). As the title indicates the aim of the side event was to describe how networking enhances the results of research on biodiversity in wetlands and each of the speakers illustrated how its institution is coping with this objective.

Exceptionally rich in biodiversity, the Pantanal, the largest continental wetland in the world, provides numerous environmental goods and services to the inhabitants of the region. The vital role wetlands play in supporting biodiversity and humanity, and their increasingly threatened status, is recognized by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. However, wetland ecosystems, such as the Pantanal, are complex and in light of the interconnected nature of ecological systems, several other MEAs are relevant to the conservation and sustainable management of this wetland.

Alphonse Kambu, from UNU-IAS focused on how the Inter-linkages approach can be used to foster a collaboration network at the MEA level. Inter-linkages is a strategic approach to managing sustainable development that seeks to promote greater connectivity between ecosystems and societal actions. In practice, this means translating this natural connectivity into a greater degree of cohesiveness among institutional, environmental issue-based and development focused responses, as well as the range of international, regional and national mechanisms that share this challenge. The Inter-linkages approach is comprised of two fundamental elements: synergism and coordination. It is believed that a synergistic approach to sustainable development will lead to more effective and resource efficient assessment, negotiation, decision making, planning and implementation of policies. Similarly, improved coordination at the international, regional and national levels and between institutions will minimize inadvertent conflicts between environmental policies and measures, and between different international regimes. Another important aspect of potential synergies between MEAs lies in the harmonization of methodologies, procedures and formats for the information gathering and analysis required of the Parties to MEAs. Harmonization of information and institutions could help to alleviate the multiple burdens placed on national authorities, the implementing architecture of which is generally disjointed. The idea behind the procedural streamlining is that much of the information gathered in reporting activities shares basic commonalties, but is collected and recollected by different domestic departments, ministries or national centers. By creating systems that could centralize the collection and data storage and then harmonize reporting formats, the procedural burden could be substantially alleviated. Joint programs between institutions are a useful way to improve inter-linkages between MEAs, for example, joint capacity building programs could be created at the

national level. As illustrated above, the Inter-linkages approach can be used to foster effective environmental management through the development of better-integrated management mechanisms based on synergies that exist in the environment. In managing an ecosystem as complex as the Pantanal, the development of a regional management framework and the coordination amongst five key MEAs at a regional and national level is a matter of urgency. The management of this vast wetland provides an opportune example of where the Inter-linkages approach can be implemented.

George Camargo, from CI, and Ellen Wang, from EarthWatch, presented the "Conservation research Initiative -CRI" a joint program between these two institutions. CI is a non-government and non-profit organization, established in 1987 and headquartered in Washington-DC. Today, CI is present in almost 50 countries, strategically located in the most vulnerable habitats (hotspots) and in the highest biodiversity areas (wilderness area). Its mission is to conserve the Earth's Living Heritage – the global biodiversity – and demonstrate that human societies can live harmoniously with nature. EarthWatch was created in 1971 with offices in Massachusetts, Oxford, Melbourne and Tokyo. EarthWatch's mission is to engage people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. The CRI initiative was implemented at Fazenda Rio Negro, Pantanal to support research projects of several scientists from different Universities and institutions and promote advances in biodiversity knowledge and to integrate life experiences among local teachers, farm owners and worldwide volunteers. This initiative rely on a vast network of about 20 Brazilian and North American institutions that are fostering a field research program composed of nine multidisciplinary research projects and baseline monitoring (wetland ecology, birds, otters, herpetology, peccaries, wildlife health, bats, carnivores of grasslands) that will contribute to the Pantanal sustainability, capacity building and to the engagement of communities and stakeholders.

Pierre Girard focused on the Pantanal Research Center (CPP) and PREP missions. Both CPP and PREP are based in Cuiabá, Brazil. At the end of 2001 UNU created PREP -a research and training program of excellence and a forum for exchange of knowledge, experiences and for capacity building on the protection, preservation and sustainable use of fragile ecosystems, including the issues, among others of biodiversity, water resources management, highland-lowland interactive system. The mission of PREP is to produce new scientific and technological knowledge, highly trained people and motivated individuals with the aim of proposing public policies for the sustainable development of the Pantanal basin and providing the cooperation and exchange of information with institutions dealing with similar ecological regions in the world. PREP is a network of institutions that cooperate. This node establishes contact with institutions in Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, as well as with institutions concerned with wetlands in Argentina and Colombia and eventually in other parts of the world. Each one of these institutions is also the node of a national network with compatible objectives and mission. UNU-PREP is also a node within the CPP, which is a Brazilian network of academic institutions in Brazil. CPP stands for Pantanal Research Centre. The CPP is an organization of civil society recognized for public interest by the Brazilian government. The mission of CPP, which was officially established in 2003, is similar to UNU-PREP's. The CPP first large project, Consolidation of the Pantanal Ecosystem Research Network started in 2004. This project relies on the premise that the several economic and environmental problems affecting the Pantanal can be better approached by a close cooperation between scientists and civil society. The project was designed considering three research axis: 1. Sustainability of Cattle Breeding; 2. Sustainability of Fishery and 3. Bioprospecting. Those are cross-cutting issues involving themes as ecology, culture, socio-

logy, anthropology, veterinary, genetics, agronomy, economy, chemistry, and botany. The research aiming the Sustainability of Fishery is being carried out through a network composed by researchers belonging to seven institutions around the Pantanal; eleven projects are in execution. The network aiming the sustainability of Cattle Breeding is formed by researchers from six institutions. The Bioprospecting network is composed by four Pantanal academic institutions. Furthermore, CPP and PREP are involved in network structuring actions related to biodiversity research such as the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) in North Pantanal, The Institutions and Research for the Pantanal: towards a bioregional research agenda to support Policy Institutions, Legal Frameworks and Social Action – the INREP project, a Pilot International Student Internship Program on Wetlands Issues as well as the organization of various workshops on this theme.

The Global Integrated Trends Analysis Network (GITAN)

U.S. Geological Survey

The Global Integrated Trends Analysis Network (GITAN) is a multidisciplinary network of collaborators committed to delivering comprehensive and integrated data on landscape change. The side event on 22 March, sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, was well attended. A panel with representatives from the Paraguayan Environment Ministry, Guyra Paraguay, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. National Biological Information Infrastructure discussed the Global Data Toolkit, Rapid Land Cover Mapping tool, global activities, and pilot projects in Senegal and Paraguay, including an ecosystems gap analysis for Paraguay. Several participants asked about joining GITAN, and much appreciation was shown for the easy accessibility to large datasets and for the ability to manage those datasets by communities of practice.

Global Integrated Trends Analysis Network (GITAN) Side Event. Photo courtesy of: Guyra Paraguay

GITAN provides an institutional and spatial framework for integrating and delivering data on the status and trends of land cover, ecosystems, and conservation threats. GITAN Web-based tools (accessible at http://rockyitr.cr.usgs.gov/gitan) enable users to view trends analyses, satellite images, and derived data layers. For example, one tool enables conservation practitioners to edit -- on the Web and in real time -- geographical boundaries and associated data characterizing Important Bird Areas, and to view their data in the context of other GITAN data. Country-specific analyses enhance national conservation planning and management. The U.S. Geological Survey provides programmatic and technical support for this exciting new initiative.

Biodiversity Conservation Strategies and Activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

U.S. Agency for International Development

The US Agency for International Development (USAID), including both the Agency's Washington headquarters and Brazil office, hosted a side event on Tuesday 3/21/06 exploring USAID's global biodiversity conservation programming (about USD$165.5m/year), with a highlight on USAID Brazil's conservation programs. The side event was well attended by approximately 50 participants.

Following the team's presentation there was a productive and comprehensive question and answer discussion period between the USAID group and audience. The presentation and discussions that followed focused on the Agency's strategies, programs, mechanisms and support for biodiversity conservation world wide.

Wetlands, Water and Livelihoods

Wetlands International

Side Event Aims

a) To raise awareness of the contributions of wise wetland management to reducing poverty in its different manifestations and to the Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
b) To provide clear examples and cogent arguments for an integrated approach to wise wetland management for contributing to livelihood security and diminished vulnerability.
c) To provide clear guidance on the implementation of wise wetland ecosystem management for implementing recommendations for the Programme of Work for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Side event chair: Ward Hagemeijer, Programme Head Biodiversity Conservation – Wetlands International
Side event rapporteur: Maria Stolk, Technical Assistant - Wetlands International
Key note speakers:

- David Coates, Inland Waters Programme – Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Nick Davidson, Ramsar Convention
- Henk Simmons, IUCN-Netherlands Committee
- Kemi Awoyinka, Wetlands and Poverty Alleviation Officer – Wetlands International

Brief description of key note presentations

David Coates: presented the links between biodiversity, wetlands valuation, inland fisheries and sustainable livelihoods. Examples of those links were flood mitigation, the provision of food by inland wetlands to local communities, the cultural link between local communities and wetlands. Coates explained the historical shift of the CBD from a species biodiversity convention to a more human development targeted convention. He also stressed the need for a more cross-sectoral approach within governmental bodies regarding water management.

Nick Davidson: presented The Ramsar Convention approach to wetlands and livelihoods issues. Davidson explained that Ramsar is a lead implementation partner for CBD on wetlands for its inland and coastal components. He presented the key findings of the wetlands synthesis report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its consequences for human well-being, particularly for the poor. He mentioned that continued degradation of wetlands is resulting in further reduction in human well-being especially for poorer people in less developed countries. He presented the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks and resolutions relevant to livelihoods and their key actions for implementation. Davidson gave particular attention to Resolution IX.14 mentioning that Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Ramsar International Partners Organizations and the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group play a key role in supporting the implementation of the resolution.

Henk Simmons: presented the Green Coast Project, a project funded by Dutch public charity funds through Novib/Oxfam and implemented jointly by Wetlands International, IUCN-NL, BothEnds, WWF-NL with local partner organizations in executing countries. Simmons explained how this project strives to identify and prioritize areas for rehabilitation through environmental and socio-economic assessments in post-tsunami affected areas of Aceh and Nias, Sri Lanka, South-India, Thailand and Malaysia. He explained that this project seeks to guide coastal recovery and influence local government and donor policies on reconstruction and rehabilitation strategies and also to increase potential for economic development and ownership by local communities on their natural resource base. Examples of coastal recovery via mangrove/coastal species planting by local communities in return for micro-credits and livelihoods recovery in Aceh and South India were given.

Kemi Awoyinka: presented the Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (WPRP) funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She explained how this project seeks to catalyse the mainstreaming of sustainable wetland management into poverty reduction by influencing policies and planning processes. She highlighted the African focus of the project and its structure and key activities via the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group and the baseline research and review of international policy frameworks. She closed her presentation by introducing the film The Niger, a Lifeline a documentary funded by Wetlands International in collaboration with Ramsar, University of California Berkeley and Free University of Amsterdam.

Synopsis and main discussion points

After the key presentations and the showing of the short documentary The Niger, a lifeline a discussion was facilitated. Main issues addressed during the discussions sessions were:

- Wetlands values should be better included or tackled into policy and planning processes;
- There is a need to address cross-sectoral communication for achieving sustainable wetlands management. Moreover, integrated approaches to sustainable wetlands and water management should be an integral part of poverty reduction strategies.
- Assessments on the influence by large infrastructure developments (i.e. dams) and their consequences on up/down water flows changes and adjacent local livelihoods should be better addressed;

Topics raised relevant for the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel:

- Equitable sharing of water between agricultural water use and wetlands maintenance in relation to large infrastructure development (Zambia)
- Guidance on trade-off between the contributions to poverty alleviation from drivers of negative change on wetlands versus contribution to poverty alleviation from wetlands conservation (Argentina)
- Guidance on where is the balance between how much can be claimed for wetlands conservation and how much can be claimed for sustainable use and/or poverty reduction. Replication of good Brazilian government example (Brazil)
- Guidance on conflict prevention through incorporation of timely and adequate wetland valuation into national decision making processes – planning and development (WI)
- Needs assessment to elaborate further guidance for parties on the implementation of Resolution 9.XIV (WI)
- Guidance on the balance between the contribution of wetlands to poverty alleviation and the hindrances

wetlands pose to poverty alleviation (e.g. negatively impacting public health) (Ramsar).

- Improve knowledge sharing in the relation to the role of invasive alien species and dam development affecting water flows downstream (Nigeria).

Biodiversity and Human Health

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization held a side event on the topic of "Biodiversity and Human Health", with the participation of Carlos Corvalan (WHO), Ulisses Confalioneri (Fiocruz) and Jonathan Patz (U Wisconsin). The speakers presented the health findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the outline of a forthcoming report on "Health and the Rio Conventions."

Summary:

The Rio Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification were established with the recognition that anthropogenic changes to the environment are threatening the natural balance of the planet. Mounting pressure is being placed on natural resources to meet the needs of the global economy and the world's peoples, resulting in soil, water and air pollution, deforestation, urban sprawl, introduction of non-native species, inadequately planned water resource development to meet food and energy needs, and other unsustainable practices. These changes are having both direct and indirect impacts on our climate, ecosystems and biodiversity.

Accumulating scientific evidence now points to the inexorable role that these forces of global environmental change have, not only on natural systems, but also on human health. Many aspects of global environmental change, such as climate change, alterations to land use and hydrology, ozone depletion, biodiversity and species loss, and transboundary flows of persistent pollutants, are increasingly understood to pose a wide range of health risks, including emerging infectious diseases and malnutrition.

Scientists now believe that the connection between health and the global environment is no longer just of future concern. International scientific advisory groups such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment warn that morbidity and mortality from environmental threats are already visible in many parts of the world, and will continue to grow rapidly unless major efforts are made to redress the human causes of ecological transformation that is now taking place.

Growing evidence of the impact of global environmental change is driving renewed consciousness among the world's peoples and nations of the need to act quickly to protect the planet's ecological and climatic systems. Without such action, millions of people across all countries are likely to face greater health risks. In this context, new emphasis on the human health dimensions of global environmental change offers a strong motivation for concerted global action to address challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Health has long been a major component of environmental concern in many countries, and a new focus on health can help to make the case for progress towards new, more ambitious global environmental policies.

The interconnectedness of health and global environmental change also highlights the need to address fundamental inequities in global society. While all nations face future health risks from global environmental change,

such risks are already being felt by the world's poor, and are likely to continue to fall disproportionately on impoverished and vulnerable communities in the future. International assessments of current health impacts from global environmental change give sobering indications that poor populations are already experiencing significant health risks from ecosystem degradation. Existing health disparities are being exacerbated by the loss of ecosystem services required to support and maintain health and well-being for many people already struggling with poverty, malnutrition, and the effects of natural disasters. This evidence points to the immediate need not only to identify and implement long-term solutions to reduce global environmental change, but also to strengthen programmes to help developing countries reduce their vulnerability to environmental changes that are already occurring, and are likely to intensify in the short to medium-term.

The analysis indicates a series of important, mutually reinforcing actions for the UN system and other partners, to promote awareness and to build capacity to address these challenges.

Global efforts to limit land degradation, climate change, and other processes of ecological transformation will reap significant benefits to worldwide public health over the course of the 21st century. The public health community should therefore make its voice heard in the treaty processes aimed at reducing global environmental change:

- Human health is one of the first casualties of environmental degradation, and health considerations have a long history of motivating environmental protection. There is a need for a more concerted effort to inform participants in international environmental negotiations of the health risks posed by global ecological degradation and climate change.
- National health officials are often poorly represented among delegations to international environmental negotiations. Health Ministries need to become active participants in domestic policy development and the preparation of negotiating positions on global environmental issues.
- Human health offers a potential focal point for collaboration and coordination among the major global environmental treaty organizations addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. A joint forum among the three conventions, the World Health Organization and other UN agencies would provide a basis to explore options for addressing health and global environmental change.

New knowledge to further strengthen understanding of the health risks of global environmental change remains essential to progress on global public health.

- Global capacity to pursue scientific research on global environmental change and public health is now emerging. Efforts by WHO and other partners, including collaborating centers for global environmental change research, and innovative training and capacity building programs, should continue to be supported and publicized to the global community.
- A forum should be established wherein environmental health policy experts and officials can begin to formulate win-win strategies to redress global environmental change and to foster improved public health. This could be done jointly or in parallel with establishment of a joint forum of the three conventions described above.

Recent scientific advances, summarized in the various assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change and the recent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, show increasing evidence of the links between global climate, ecosystems and their biodiversity, landscapes, and human health consequences. It is becoming increasingly clear that conservation policy and public health policy are closely and intricately linked. This calls for collaboration not just at the international level, but for Ministers of the Environment, Finance, and Health to work together to address health and other threats arising from global environmental change. Health, environment, and development professionals can no longer afford to work in isolation from each another; policy decisions in each arena have widespread and lasting impacts on ecosystem, and human, health.

For further information, please contact:
WHO organizer of the event
Dr. Carlos Corvalan
Public Health and Environment
World Health Organization
CH-1211, Geneva 27
http://www.who.int/globalchange

Email:
corvalanc@who.int

Others:
Dr. Patz: patz@wisc.edu
Dr. Confalioneri: pmags@ensp.fiocruz.br

The Relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Jayashree Watal, Counsellor in the Intellectual Property Division of the WTO, gave an overview of the work in the WTO on the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD, noting its evolution since the 1992 Rio Earth summit up to the instructions given by trade ministers in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. She noted that views of WTO Members on the question of whether the TRIPS Agreement and CBD requirements conflict, and if so, what, if anything, needs to be done on the TRIPS side fell into four, not mutually exclusive, approaches. Some believe that there is no conflict as both agreements can be implemented in a mutually supportive way at the national level without further international action. Others, believe that even while there is no inherent conflict there should be international action to make the implementation of the two agreements mutually supportive. In this second group, there is a group of developing countries, with wide support from other developing countries, that propose an amendment to the TRIPS Agreement to incorporate a disclosure requirement on patent applicants to disclose the source and country of origin of biological resources used in claimed inventions along with evidence of prior informed consent (PIC) and benefit-sharing. Yet others are undecided as to whether international action is necessary and want to discuss national experiences further. Finally, some believe that conflict between the two instruments is inherent and that there should be a mandatory prohibition of the patenting of life forms. This last group also supports the TRIPS amendment to include a disclosure requirement.

Henrique Choer Moraes, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil, expressed the view that the national-based approach to ABS was insufficient, and presented the case for amending the TRIPS Agreement to incorporate a disclosure requirement. He stated that the interface between CBD and WTO is undeniable, as acknowledged in the original CBD text. He noted that currently the patent system does not include CBD obligations such as the protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and PIC. He said that such a disclosure requirement would not overburden the patent system or hinder innovation, and would merely incorporate commitments already made under CBD.

Douglas Neumann, US State Department, presented the case for a national-based approach, which he believed allowed for tailoring related policies to national conditions. He noted the variety of affected user groups within the US and gave examples of how some of the States of the US were considering this issue. He said that the patent system was meant to encourage innovation and should not be burdened with other unrelated objectives, however justified their cause may be. He said that , on the one hand, the case had not been made that a disclosure requirement would be effective in ensuring ABS compliance, and on the other, it would certainly burden the patent system and the users. He urged keeping the original intention behind the use of patents in mind, which was to encourage innovation.

Martin Girsberger, Swiss Federal Institute for Intellectual Property, introduced a proposal that would amend the regulations of the Patent Cooperation Treaty administered by WIPO to allow countries to require patent applicants to declare the source of genetic resources and TK. He stated that this was a voluntary approach that focused on disclosure of source only (and not of PIC or benefit-sharing). He said that the Swiss proposal

would be conducive to international agreement.

More information:
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/art27_3b_e.htm

For more information, please contact:
Jayashree Watal <jayashree.watal@wto.org>
Henrique Choer Moraes <hcmoraes@mre.gov.br>
Martin Girsberger <martin.girsberger@ipi.ch>
Douglas Neumann <neumanndb@state.gov>”

COP - MOP 3

Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties
serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Curitiba, Brazil
13 - 17 March 2006

The Brazilian Network on LMO Biosafety

Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation

The Brazilian Network on Biosafety - BioSeg- held a lunch time side event at the MOP 3 in Curitiba, Brazil. This presentation showed the strategic collaboration among 14 Embrapa Research Stations in Brazil to develop the necessary studies to address environmental and food safety impact assessment of five transgenic crops under development by Embrapa. The proposal and structure of the project as well as the lessons learnt from its four year studies were presented.

The event was opened by welcome addresses from Dr. Ederlon Oliverira - Executive Directory Adviser from the Brazilian Research Corporation (Embrapa) and Dr. Bernardo Ribeiro de Castro from Brazilian Financial Agency (Finep, who emphasized their support for the project as a unique Brazilian initiative in the public sector. Dr. Deise Capalbo, from Embrapa Environment, presented an overview of the Bioseg project. Dr. Andre Duzi, from Embrapa Vegetables, presented the contribution of the project to capacity building and public policies. Dr. Eliana Fontes – Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology finalized the presentations telling about the experience of a public institution on biosafety research.

The side event was attended by about 40 MOP 3 participants. Participants included delegates from many countries, representing different areas of interest as capacity building projects, risk assessment experts, and observers from NGOs, the biotechnology industry, and universities. Questions were received on clarification of the project methods, the structure of the steering committee and core group expertise, but many more engaged in detailed discussions with project members after the closure of the event. Many participants expressed interest in exchanging experiences and left their contacts for further actions.

Presentation of the INBI Biosafety Assessment Tool

Centre for Integrated Research in Biosafety

The Centre for Integrated Research in Biosafety (INBI), formerly known as NZIGE, is a research centre of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. It is an independent and transdisciplinary Centre engaged in assessing whether and how various products of biotechnology may pose risks to humans and the wider environment.

During the side event, Camilo Rodriguez-Beltran presented activities initiated in 2005 by the Centre. These activities reflect the focus of the Centre's research: risk assessment of LMOs, and biosafety capacity building in developing countries.

The INBI side event included a presentation of an ongoing project: the Biosafety Assessment Tool (BAT). The BAT will be a free-to-the-public online resource, designed as a practical tool for the risk assessment of GMO applications for food, feed, medicine or environmental release, developed with funding from NORAD in co-operation with the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology. A movie was presented explaining the different features of the tool. This animation prompted an exchange of ideas regarding its effective use. The presentation of the Centre's progress on the BAT engaged delegates in a discussion regarding practical issues about its deployment - mainly related to translation into different languages, and how it will be launched.

The side event also included an overview of the inaugural Biosafety Course in Honiara, Solomon Islands, conducted by INBI in August 2005. This course provided an introduction to modern biotechnology, biosafety and the regulatory requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. It included practical laboratory sessions in which participants isolated DNA from local fruits and built inexpensive versions of a PCR machine and a gel electrophoresis rig. The presentation of this course review was followed by a discussion with representatives of other Pacific Islands on the effectiveness and practical development of the course, with enthusiasm for expanding the course to other countries in the Pacific region in 2006. The course's practical laboratory sessions were of special interest to the audience.

The feedback gained from the audience during this side event made it extremely valuable for the development of the BAT. The side event also raised prospects for future initiatives of biosafety capacity building in the Pacific region and in South America.

The presentation used in the side event can be downloaded from INBI Website: (www.inbi.canterbury.ac.nz)

Biosafety in Centers of Biodiversity - A Multi-Country Approach for Latin America

Embrapa Meio Ambiente, Brazil

The Latin America Multi-country Biosafety Project presented its strategic collaboration among five countries to develop country capacity to address environmental and feed/food safety and socio-economic impact assessment of transgenic crops.

The event was opened by a welcome address from Dr. Deise Capalbo – Embrapa Environment/Brazil in the name of the Project Coordinators (CIAT/CGIAR, Embrapa/Brazil; Ministry of Agriculture/Colombia; CIBCM/Costa Rica; CONABIO/Mexico; CONAM/Peru). Dr. Maria Francisca Jose Acevedo Gasman and Dr. Maria Amanda Galvez Mariscal presented the pre-proposed format of the project and its objectives and outcomes. The expected improvement in biosafety capacity in the region to make informed decisions as well as the contribution to the national development priorities, while ensuring compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety, were stressed.

Around 40 MOP 3 participants attended the side event, including delegates from developed and developing countries, representing different areas of interest as capacity building projects, risk assessment, the biotechnology industry, and some universities. At least one of each country represented in the project was present in the room.

Questions were received on clarification of the project structure and goals, and some of the participants stayed in the room to discuss with project members after the closure of the event.

International Project on GMO Environmental Risk Assessment Methodologies

Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology and GMO Era Project

The GMO ERA Project held a lunchtime side event at the third Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol in Curitiba, Brazil, on the first day of the meeting. The side event featured the project team of scientists in Brazil and how they have applied and developed the project methodologies in Brazil to focus research on the impacts of Bt cotton, addressing questions of impacts on the diversity of pollinating insects, gene flow and possible management options, and design and implementation of a resistance management strategy. Dr. Deise Capalbo of Embrapa Environment introduced the future plans of the project to build up an Expert Training Team in Brazil, and to develop with this team a teaching curriculum and teaching tools on the project methods, to provide capacity building on environmental risk assessment in Brazil and other countries.

The side event was opened by welcome addresses from Mr. Ryan Hill, risk assessment expert from the CBD Secretariat, Mr. Robert Lamb, from the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment and also representing the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation who finance the project, and Dr. Ederlon Oliveira, representing Dr. Geraldo Eugênio França, Director of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and member of the Project Advisory Board, who could not be present. The CBD Secretariat emphasised their support for the project as a key component for capacity building that implements scientific case-by-case environmental risk assessment as required by the Cartagena Protocol. Mr. Lamb, the head of the Swiss delegation, recommended the project to other countries as a unique initiative that addresses the need for in-depth scientific capacity building for environmental risk assessment. Dr. Oliveira expressed the personal commitment of the Embrapa directorate to supporting this project in Brazil, as well as its relevance to biosafety research in Embrapa, which is developing a number of GM crops.

Dr. Carmen Pires of Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology presented a systematic method for identifying non-target species most likely to be associated with a possible adverse effect, and its application and relevance for directing her research on cotton pollinators. Dr. Paulo Barroso introduced the project approach for evaluating the possible impacts of gene flow and its consequences, and a proposal for management of gene flow in cotton in Brazil with Bt cotton exclusion zones. Dr. Celso Omoto explained the analysis of resistance risk posed by Bt cotton in Brazil, and the development of a resistance management strategy that will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil.

The participants at the MOP 3 were an important audience for the project, because a featured topic of the MOP 3 negotiations was risk assessment of LMOs (GMOs), and capacity building for developing countries on how to implement annex III on risk assessment of the Protocol. The side event was attended by about 60 MOP 3 participants, filling the room completely to capacity with people standing along the walls. Participants included delegates from over 16 countries (14 parties and 2 non-parties), plus representatives of other capacity building projects, risk assessment experts, and observers from NGOs, the biotechnology industry, and universities from nine countries.

Questions were received on clarification of the project methods, but many more engaged in detailed discussions with project members over the buffet sponsored by the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment that closed the event. Many participants expressed interest in the second publication of the project on the Brazil case study, and signed up for the project mailing list. Important contacts were made for the project internationally as well as in Brazil, and the event manifested the support and need for in depth scientific capacity building on environmental risk assessment driven by public sector scientists, as recognised in the Action Plan and the decision on risk assessment and management taken by MOP 3.

The project thanks the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment for the financial support of the side event.

2. Program:

Mr. Ryan Hill, CBD Secretariat	Welcome
Mr. Robert Lamb Swiss Federal Office of the Environment	Introduction
Dr. Ederlon Oliveira, personal advisor to Dr. Geraldo Eugênio França, Director of Embrapa	Welcome and introduction to the Brazil experience with the project
Dr. Deise Capalbo, Embrapa Environment	Development of teaching tools and Expert Training Team
Dr. Carmen Pires, Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology	Cotton pollinators and on-going research in support of risk assessment
Dr. Paulo Barroso Embrapa Cotton	Gene flow studies and exclusion areas for GM cotton
Dr. Celso Omoto, University of São Paulo	Resistance evolution and management

Cocktail Reception Celebrating the Benefits of Agricultural Biotechnology in Developing Countries

Global Industry Coalition

The Global Industry Coalition (GIC) hosted a cocktail reception for all delegates celebrating the benefits of agricultural biotechnology in developing countries on the evening of Tuesday, 14 March. Delegates discussed these benefits with representatives of the GIC and heard brief remarks from Michael Leader, a representative of CropLife International, a trade association member of the GIC which funded the reception. The GIC receives input and direction from trade associations representing thousands of companies from all over the world. Participants include associations representing and companies engaged in a variety of industrial sectors such as plant science, seeds, agricultural biotechnology, food production, animal agriculture, human and animal health care, and the environment.

For more information, please contact:
Sarah Lukie at slukie@mckennalong.com.

The Role of the European Union in Biosafety Capacity Building

Presidency of the European Union and European Commission

Programme

Chair: European Commission and the Austrian Presidency of the EU

Presentations (10-15min each)

- Sampling, Detection and Identification of GMOs – The role of the European Commission and the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL)
- by Guy Van den Eede (European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, Biotechnology and GMO Unit)
- Project Presentation 1
- "Biosafety Capacity Building in China: Data Management, Promoting Expertise and Awareness Raising"
- by Alexandra Müller (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany) and Prof. Dayuan Xue (Nanjing Institute of Environmental Science, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), China)
- Project Presentation 2
- "Eastern African Regional Programme and Research Network for Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biotechnology policy Development , BIO-EARN"
- by Gity Behravan (Senior Research Advisor from the Department for Research Cooperation, SAREC within the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida) and Harrison K. Macharia (Chief Science Secretary from National Council for Science and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya)

For further information, please contact:

Guy Van den Eede: Guy.VAN-DEN-EEDE@cec.eu.int
Alexandra Müller: alexandra.mueller@gtz.de
Prof. Dayuan Xue: xuedayuan@hotmail.com
Gity Behravan: gity.behravan@sida.se
Harrison K. Macharia: harrison@ncstnbo.or.ke

EU AT

European Commission

Biotechnology Biodiversity Interface (BBI): Competitive Grants for Risk Assessment Research

Program for Biosafety Systems

The Biotechnology Biodiversity Interface (BBI) grants component of the Program for Biosafety Systems was described. The BBI grants seeks to accomplish the following:

- To assist regulatory bodies in making science-based decisions about the effects on biodiversity of introducing genetically engineered organisms into the environment.
- To begin generating scientific data on potential risks associated with applications of biotechnology on biodiversity in developing countries.
- Develop strategies for managing potential risks in the context of agro-ecosystems found in developing countries.
- Build collaboration between agricultural research and environmental conservation communities in developed and developing countries.
- Build capacity in risk assessment and risk management research.

Eight projects have been funded so far, including research projects to study gene flow, insect resistance management strategies, and non-target effects of genetically engineered crops. Through these projects, data that will be useful to assessing the potential impacts (both positive and negative) of LMO's to biodiversity can be better assessed.

Production of Animal Vaccines in Plants

Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI)

The first side event discussed an example of a non agricultural application of modern biotechnology, i.e. the production of vaccines in plants. The presentation by Dr. Andres Wigdorovitz from INTA, Argentina, addressed the advantages, in particular for developing countries, of using plants for the production of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, and presented several examples. Dr. Wigdorovitz explained that Rotavirus (RV), Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus (BVDV) and Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) are considered to be the most important causative agent of economic loss of cattle production activity in Argentina and thus, constitute optimal candidates for the obtainment of alternative sources of immunization tools. In the side event, he present the development of different experimental immunogens of these viruses through the expression of immunogenic proteins from these viruses in alfalfa transgenic plants. The results presented confirmed the possibility of using plants as antigen expression vectors and could be directly applied for the development of plant-based vaccines.

In discussions following the presentation, participants discussed the potential advantages and risks of such plants, and general questions such as the importance of gene switching technologies of GURTs in ensuring that plant made vaccines do not end up in the food chain.

Photo courtesy of: PRRI Side event

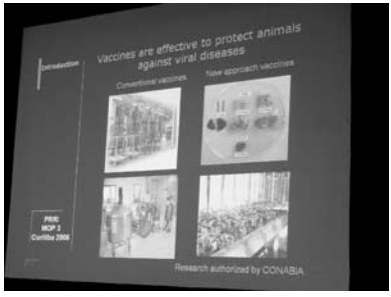

Photo courtesy of: PRRI Side event

Public Research in Biotechnology in Africa

Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI)

Photo courtesy of: PRRI Side event

In collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), PRRI organised a side event focu-sing on developments in public research in Africa.

The side event was opened by Dr. Arnold Ventura who placed modern biotechnology in the context of poverty alleviation in the environmentally and economically challenged countries. Dr. Harold Roy Macauley introduced the back ground, the objectives, the structure and activities of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). He discussed in detail the FARA-led African Biosafety and Biotechnology Initiative (FARA-ABBI) Web-based Forum, which aims at accelerating and improving the development and implementation of biosafety systems for the effective application of agricultural biotechnology in Africa. Dr. Charles Mugoya from Asareca presented different types of ongoing public research in modern biotechnology. The discussions following the presentations focused on the need to set priorities for public research in Modern biotechnology.

Public Research in Biotechnology and Biosafety in Latin America

Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI)

Photo courtesy of: PRRI Side event

In collaboration with the Organisation of American States (OAS), PRRI organised a side event focusing on biotechnology and biosafety in Latin America. This side event was held in Spanish.

The side event was opened by Dr. Javier Verastegui, who briefed the participants about Latin American biotechnology development, with emphasis on the CamBioTec biosafety projects in Argentina and Chile (1998-99); and on the developments of the OAS Biosafety Project (2002-2006). Dr. Lionel Gil presented the Developments of the OAS Biosafety Project, including a detailed account of the two-phase project, national biosafety reports in nine countries, three national studies on the demand for capacity building in biosafety; workshops in different cities, on biosafety regulatory aspects, risk assessment, DNA analysis and GMO identification, biotechnology innovation management, books printed, website and other media.

A Farmer's Defense

U.S. Grains Council

A panel of international growers presented personal testimony of their experience utilizing agricultural biotechnology on their farms at a side event hosted by the U.S. Grains Council.

Almir Rebelo, a soybean grower from Brazil, presented his perspective on the usefulness of biotechnology in contributing to Brazilian agriculture economically, environmentally and socially.

Chief Advocate Mdutshane, a traditional leader in his tribe in the Eastern Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa, presented his views on the positive contribution biotechnology has made to his family and community by reducing both input costs and pest damage while increasing yields and family income. Chief Advocate specializes in maize and livestock and is also involved in many community development initiatives in South Africa.

Darrel McAlexander, a corn and soybean farmer from the United States, discussed both the economic and environmental benefits he has experienced since adopting biotechnology on his farm. He experienced a notable reduction in soil erosion on his farm after adopting herbicide resistant soybeans and with the adoption of biotech corn, he is better able to preserve organic material in the soil through the adoption of no-till farming practices.

Edwin Paraluman tills five hectares of corn and three hectares of rice on his farm near General Santos City in the Philippines. During his presentation, Edwin stated, "We will have to ensure that we will have enough food to feed ourselves in years to come, amid our shrinking land area for cultivation." He also discussed biotechnology's contribution to improving food security and economic, industrial and rural development in the Philippines.

To view the presentations, please visit
http://brc.grains.org/grains/page.ww?section=2006+Programs&name=March

The WTO Ruling and Regulating LMOs under the Protocol: NGO Perspectives

Washington Biotechnology Action Council

Officially entitled "The WTO Ruling and Regulating LMOs Under the Protocol: NGO Perspectives" but provocatively subtitled "Don't be Afraid of the WTO!", this side event was sponsored by five NGOs with long histories of participation in both the Protocol meetings and the Ministerials of the World Trade Organization.

The presenters built on the interim decision in the trade dispute "US/Canada/Argentina vs. European Communities" in order to emphasize that "the WTO biotech ruling does not prevent countries from restricting or banning LMOs under the Biosafety Protocol." They all reflected on the role of precaution in LMO regulation, recognized as valid by the decision:

- Adrian Bebb of Friends of the Earth International described the context of the decision and listed the major holdings, emphasizing its limited nature despite claims of "victory" by the complainants.
- Bernhard Obermayr of Greenpeace International analyzed the situation in terms of European politics—the origin of the national bans on LMOs and the reaction to the risk assessments by the European Food Safety Agency which are relied upon to support the recent approvals of several transgeneics.
- Lim Li Ching of the Third World Network offered an analysis from the point of view of developing countries; these are particularly vulnerable to pressures from the US based on claims that the decision forces such nations to accept Northern LMOs.
- Phil Bereano, Washington Biotechnology Action Council, reflected on some important questions the decision leaves open (such as the role of the 2003 guidelines on pre-marketing safety assessments for genetically engineered foods adopted by the Codex Alimentarius, which are the terms of reference for WTO/SPS disputes under 1995 WTO rules, and the position of the WTO dispute mechanism that the work of dissident scientists should be considered in making SPS risk assessments).
- Adolfo Boy of Grupo Refeccion Rural (Argentina) was the moderator.

Discussion among attendees and panelists was lively. The audience included members of delegations of parties to the dispute as well as numerous NGO participants in the Protocol processes, the media, students, and members of Brazilian civil society.

For further information, please contact:
Prof. Philip L. Bereano
WashBAC
pbereano@u.washington.edu

Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Phone: 1 (514) 288 2220
Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
Website: http://www.biodiv.org